



SMACKDOWN! MAGAZINE


HE'S BACK
it all begins...again
03.14.04

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MARCH 2004



A man (Kit Yun) in a black leather jacket and dark pants walks down a wet, reflective street at night. The street is lined with buildings and illuminated by warm, yellow streetlights and shop signs. One prominent sign on the right has the Chinese characters '安東尼' (Anthony). The wet pavement reflects the lights, creating a moody atmosphere.

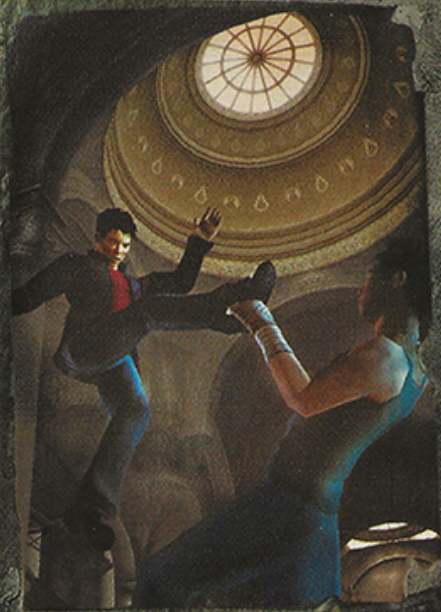
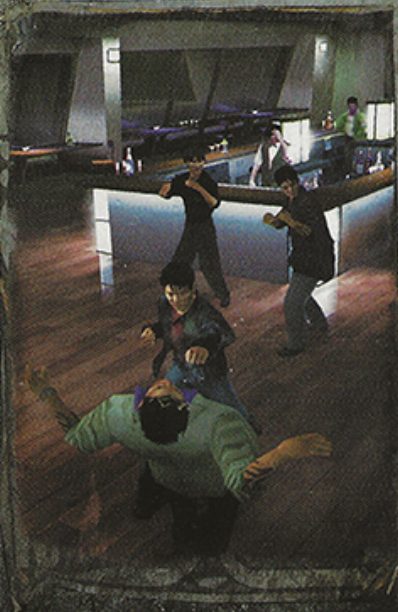
For Kit Yun, the
only way out of the
Hong Kong underworld
is to go back in.



Violence

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JET LI RISE TO HONOR 義氣



A dying man's last wish. An undercover cop who's running out of time. Jet Li is Kit Yun in *Rise to Honor*, the story of a cop sworn to fulfill his duty, yet bound by a promise to a powerful crime lord. Now Kit must enter a shadowy world where, to preserve his honor, he'll have to risk his life. But as his enemies will soon learn, sometimes the one who is most honorable...is also the most deadly.

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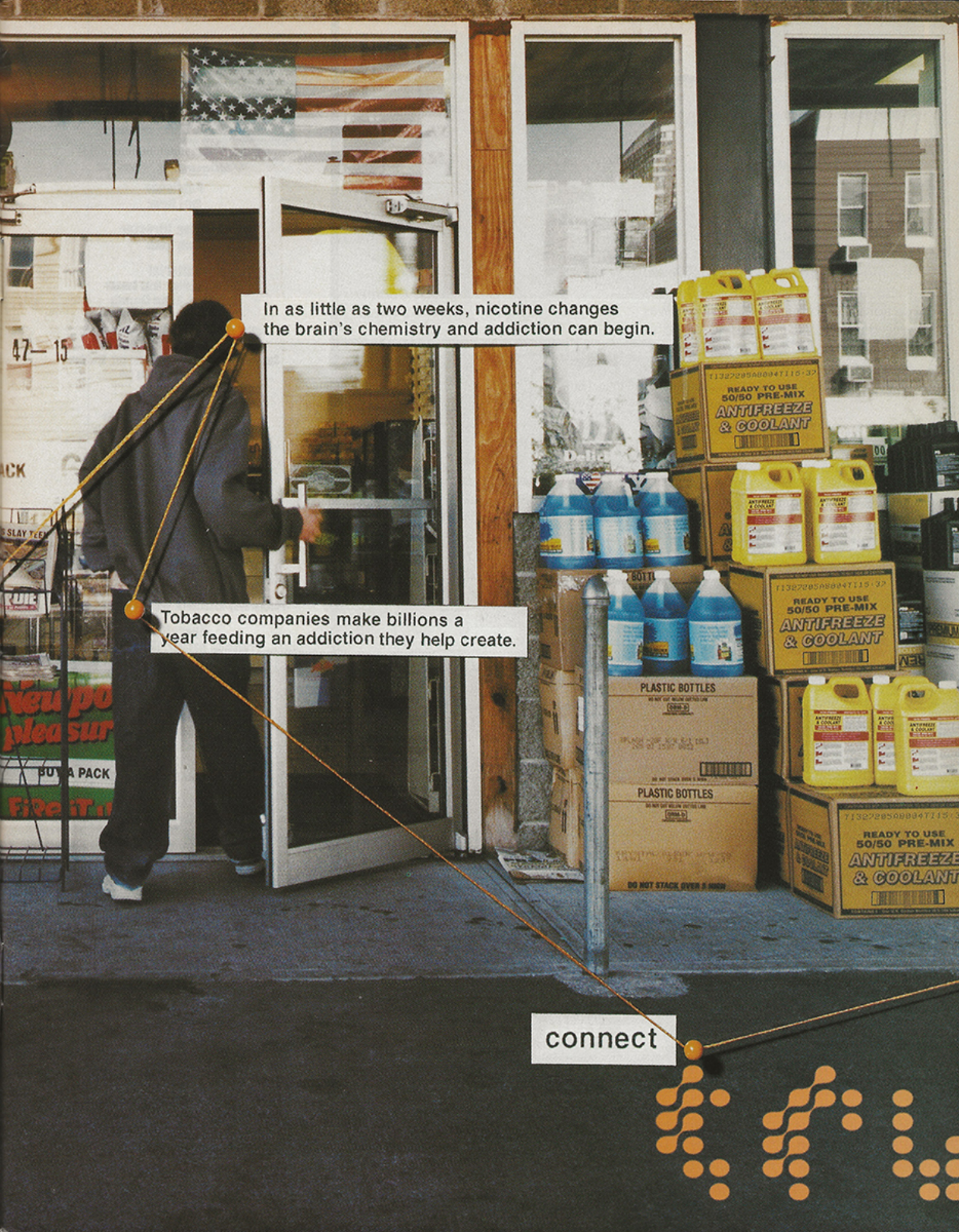
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LETTERS

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Eddie Steals Hearts

Dear Editor,
The January issue of *SmackDown! Magazine* was great. The article on Eddie Guerrero was great. I think he is one of the most talented guys on *SmackDown!* I also enjoyed reading your 2004 predictions. The tribute to Crash Holly was well done, especially reading what his fellow wrestlers had to say about him. He must have been a great person. I know he will be missed.

Michael D. Dotson
Mavisdale, VA

Dear Editor,
Thanks for another great issue of *SmackDown! Magazine*, which I personally believe is better than *Raw*. I loved your story about Eddie Guerrero—he's one of my favorites. Anyway, thanks for the issue, and I hope to see myself in the February 2004 issue.

Chuck Arbachian
New York, NY

[Editor's Note: Hope the March issue is OK, Chuck!]

Loving Linda

Dear Editor,
I can't thank you enough for the story on Linda Miles/Shaniqua. I've been following her since her *Tough Enough* days, and I was just as amazed as anyone else to see her emerge as the dominatrix Diva she is today. Talk about a transformation! It was interesting hearing her perspective on this. Keep up the good work.

Fred Bolger
Via E-mail

Heyman's Out of Control

Dear Editor,
In the Holiday 2003 edition of *SmackDown! Magazine*, you had an article by Brock Lesnar on why he likes to hurt people. Well, I think there may be someone who enjoys that even more. It's Paul Heyman, whose evil you exposed in an excellent January feature.

He may not have the physical tools to cause pain like Brock does, but the power he wields gives him the ability to bring misery to people's lives. Thanks for showing the truth on Heyman's nefarious doings. If *SmackDown! Magazine* doesn't do it, who will?

Elanor Gardner
Via e-mail

Hillbilly Havoc

Dear Editor,
Once again, the "Legends" department has come through with another enjoyable blast from the past. Hillbilly Jim was one of my favorite Superstars from the mid-'80s *Hulkamania* era. That was truly a great time to be a WWE fan. Thanks for focusing on the '80s legends over the past couple of months. For fans like me, who started watching in those days, it's a real pleasure to reminisce.

Bill Ferny
Via E-mail

[Editor's Note: : Happy to oblige, Bill. For another '80s great, Paul Orndorff, check out this month's "Legends," on page 58]

Twice as Nice

Dear Editor,
In the January "Smacktalk," you wrote that there might be a "possible business development" brewing between Torrie and Sable. A few weeks later, I hear they're doing *Playboy*! Great reporting!

Mike Orlowski
State College, PA

[Editor's Note: Mike, something tells me you might want to check out page 46.]

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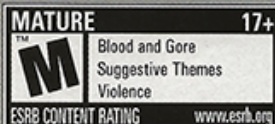


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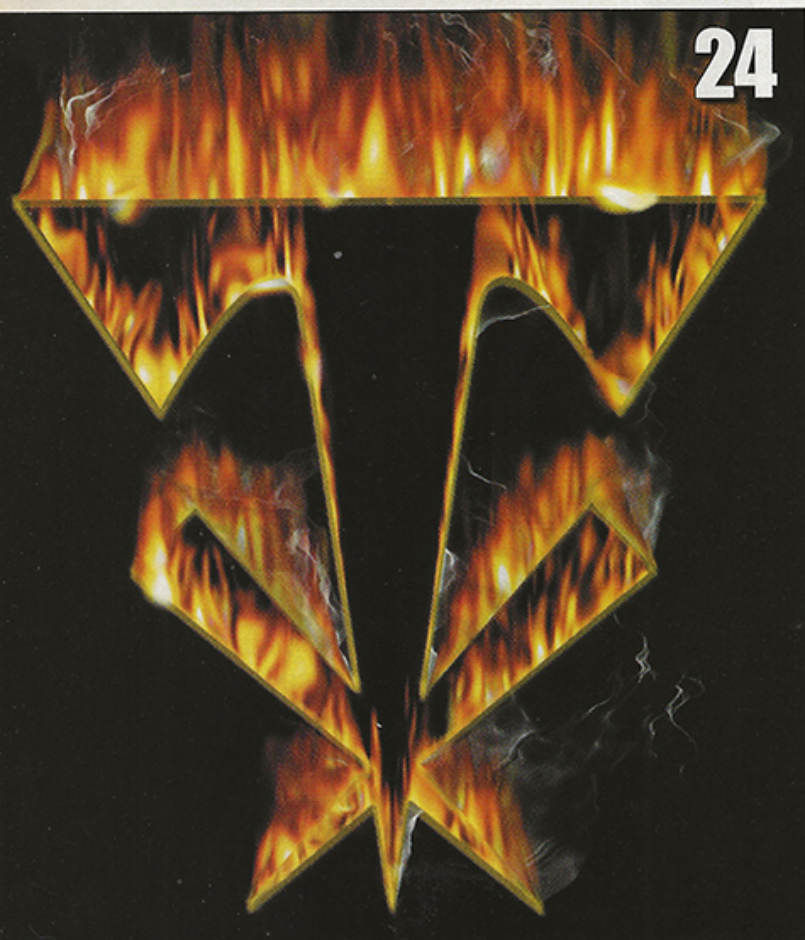


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Features

16 Return of the Three "I's"

You really thought Kurt Angle was a true-blue American hero? Shame on you! He's the same scoundrel he always was, and, this month, he lets you all know how dumb you were to fall for his charade.

24 Trials of the 'Taker

He's been gone for months now. Recently, there have been some rumblings of a comeback, and the possible nature of that return has fans buzzing like never before. What does the future hold for the Deadman?

28 Garden Memories

It's the mecca of sports-entertainment, WWE's "home field." Relive some of the history of Madison Square Garden, the site of WrestleMania XX, featuring a timeline that chronicles WWE's 47-year history in the building.

34 Ready to Dominate

Since the disappearance of Nathan Jones, Matt Morgan has been on his own in WWE, and this young Superstar is ready to make his mark in a big way. If you think you know this newcomer, you're dead wrong.

38 One for the Troops

Recently, WWE SmackDown! put on a special live show for the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in Iraq. The trip was very special to Bradshaw, who provided us with his own unique perspective.

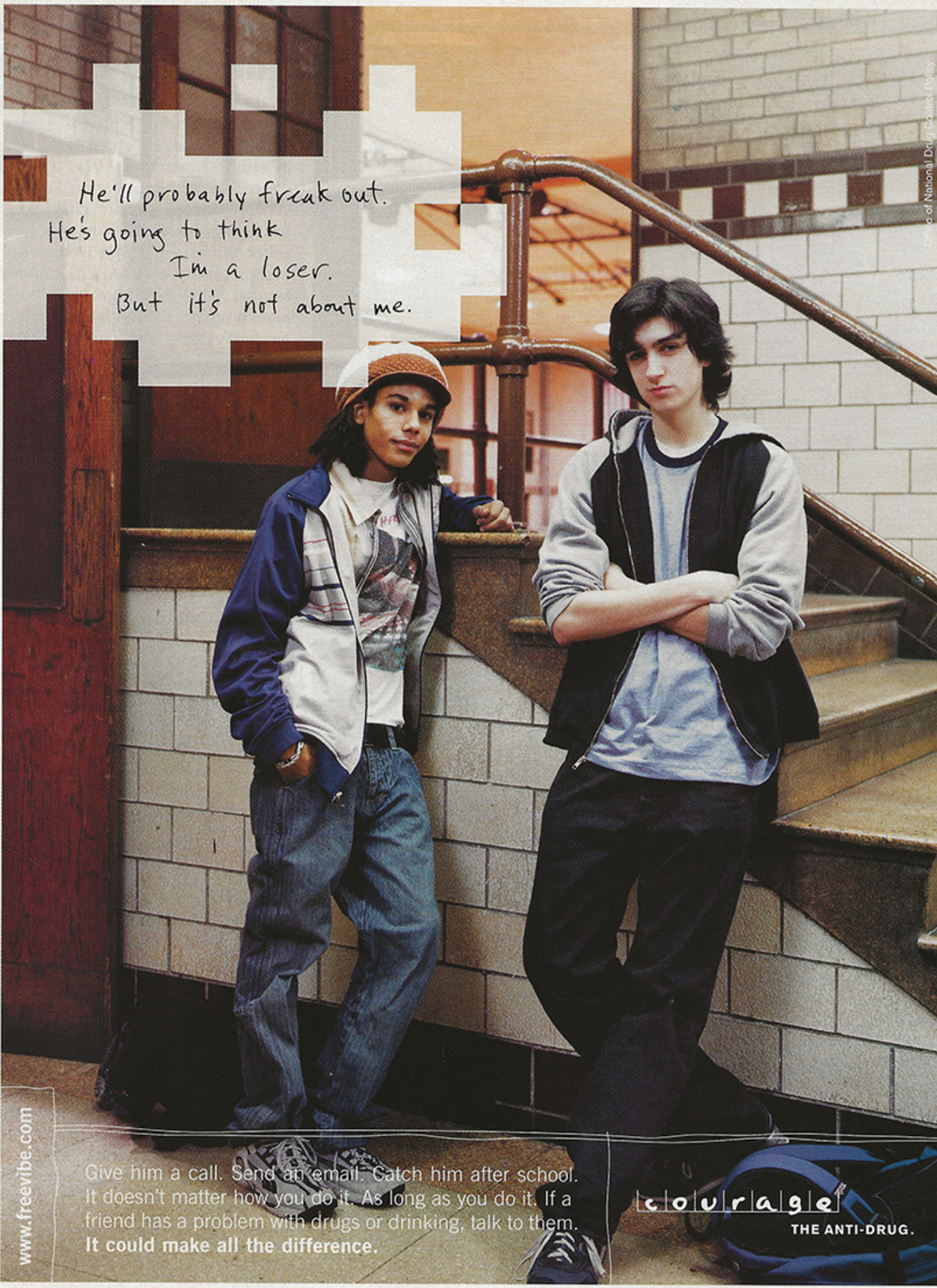
46 Too Hot to Handle

An exclusive glimpse behind the scenes at the sizzling Playboy photo shoot starring Torrie Wilson and Sable. Our photographers were on hand to capture even more of the action. You won't see these pix anywhere else!



Departments

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A photograph of two teenagers standing on a school staircase. The girl on the left is wearing a blue and white jacket, a patterned shirt, blue jeans, and a tan beanie. The boy on the right is wearing a grey and black jacket over a blue t-shirt and dark pants. They are both looking towards the camera. The staircase has a wooden railing and a brick wall in the background.

He'll probably freak out.
He's going to think
I'm a loser.
But it's not about me.

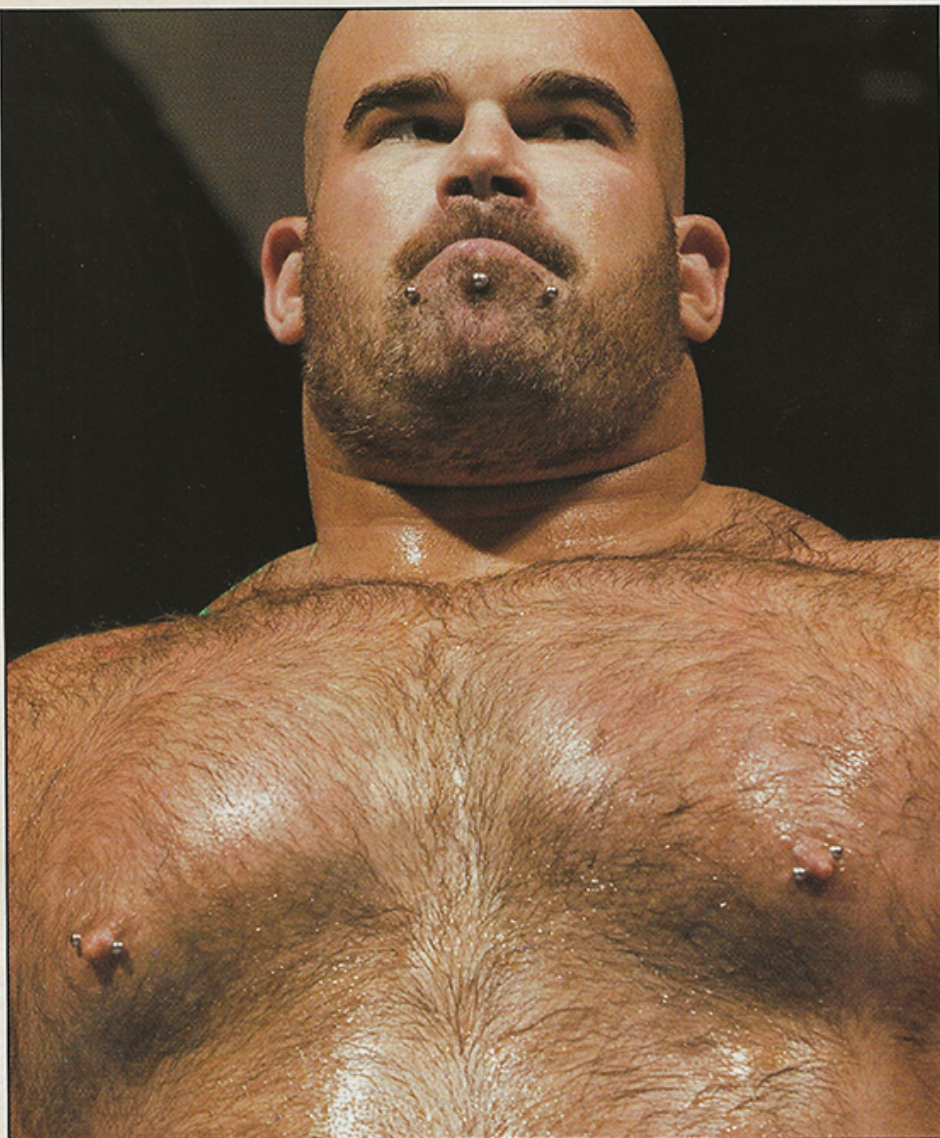
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friend has a problem with drugs or drinking, talk to them.
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Shave Your Back

Some of A-Train's fellow Superstars recently sent him a clear message that could have a giant impact on his career. Following a hard-fought match, the furry sasquatch returned to the dressing room to find a small note in his bag warning, "Shave your back or leave." A-Train initially laughed it off, figuring that it was just a practical joke, but, the next week, he found a similar message scrawled on his locker in black magic marker. Apparently, the message is backed by a bevy of *SmackDown!* Superstars who have grown tired of looking at the burly grappler's excessive body hair. The protestors claim that the hair shields him from certain maneuvers and makes them nauseous upon seeing him exit the showers. These disgruntled competitors plan on making A-Train's life miserable until he either shaves off his illustrious man-fleece or finds a home elsewhere. Only time will tell if the Massachusetts native caves in to the overwhelming demand.

Kanyon For Cover

A little over two years ago, Kanyon campaigned to get his face on the cover of *WWE Magazine*. He urged fans to send in letters expressing just how badly they wanted to see him. He even traveled to WWE's Stamford, Connecticut headquarters to physically threaten the publication's editor. But now that *WWE Magazine* has become *SmackDown! Magazine*, and only features Superstars from the Thursday night program, Kanyon feels that his time has finally come. The former MVP of the now-defunct Alliance has been telling close friends and family members that he's tentatively slated to grace the cover of the July 2005 issue. Since we here at *SmackDown! Magazine* cannot confirm or deny this rumor, we'll just have to wait until early June of next year to see if this bold prediction comes true. In unrelated news, the editor of *SmackDown! Magazine* recently returned from a TV taping sporting a shiner and nursing two bruised ribs and a broken arm. Despite rumors of an attack, he claimed that he tripped and fell backstage.

An Eye For Talent

In order for *SmackDown!* to stay one step ahead of its Monday night counterpart, different avenues for finding new talent are constantly explored. A reliable source recently revealed that *SmackDown!* has secretly hired a special talent scout to locate and acquire new stars. This unidentified agent has been described as a former WWE Superstar with a discerning eye for spotting talent in the most diverse kinds of sports, including football, baseball, basketball, amateur wrestling and boxing. According to the informant, the scout is currently in negotiations with several different professional athletes, attempting to work out deals that will lure them into a career in sports-entertainment. There's a good chance that by the time you read this, one or more of these athletes will have already signed and begun training in WWE's developmental territory.

We Want Your Questions



Do you have a question you want to ask John Cena? Well, here's your chance. As you already know, *SmackDown! Magazine* is a publication by the people and for the people. Therefore, we've decided to let our readers conduct an interview. After all, who knows what questions to ask the *SmackDown!* Superstars better than you? And just like on *SmackDown!* itself, absolutely nothing is off limits. Whether it's questions on his career, history or personal life, we want you to ask Cena whatever's on your mind. So go ahead and take your best shot. If you have questions you want to ask the "Doctor of Thuganomics," send them to the following addresses:

"Ask John Cena"

SmackDown! Magazine
c/o World Wrestling Entertainment
1241 East Main Street
Stamford, CT 06902

E-mail: sdmag@wwecorp.com
(Subject: "Ask John Cena")

And be sure to pick up a copy of the May issue of *SmackDown! Magazine* to see if John Cena answered your question.



Fists of Fury

Boxer Jorge Paez recently met up with *SmackDown!*'s Rey Mysterio and Eddie Guerrero. It all happened on the set of the TV commercial for February's *SmackDown!* pay-per-view event, *No Way Out*. Paez is a big WWE fan, and was pumped to get an opportunity to appear with Latino Superstars Mysterio and Guerrero. All three men are known for their large followings among Latino fans, and with the upcoming *No Way Out* looking to have an especially Latino flavor this year, it was the perfect time to get these three bruizers together. Both Rey and Eddie are slated for big things at the pay-per-view, with Rey challenging Chavo Guerrero for the Cruiserweight title and Eddie taking on Brock Lesnar for the WWE Championship.

SmackDown! Tour Guide

3/2: Savannah, GA
SmackDown!
7:30 pm

3/9: Atlantic City, NJ
SmackDown!
7:30 pm

3/14: New York, NY
WrestleMania XX
6:45 pm

3/16: Boston, MA
SmackDown!

3/18: Newcastle, England
3/19: Sheffield, England
3/20: Aberdeen, Scotland

3/21: Glasgow, Scotland
2:00 pm

3/23: Grand Rapids, MI
SmackDown!
7:30 pm

3/28: Tampa, FL
7:00 pm

3/30: Columbus, OH
SmackDown!
7:30 pm

*Schedule subject to change

If you've been living under a rock somewhere, maybe you're not aware that *WrestleMania XX* is almost upon us. Saddam Hussein is probably the only person who has a legitimate excuse, since he actually was living under a rock somewhere. But, as for the rest of you, I'm sure you're anxiously awaiting the greatest sports-entertainment spectacle of this generation.

What always thrills me the most about *WrestleMania* is wondering what *that moment* is going to be—you know, the moment you wind up talking about with your friends the next day, and for many days and years afterward. Each year, it seems like everyone steps up their game just a little bit in an attempt to grab the spotlight. Making a *bella figura* at *WrestleMania* (all you non-Italians can look that one up) is a definite way to ensure immortality.

As an example, I'd like to relive some of my all-time favorite *WrestleMania* moments, if you'll permit me. Or even if you won't, actually.

Ricky Steamboat winning the Intercontinental Championship. *WrestleMania III* was the first one I watched live (on closed-circuit), and it would be an understatement to say I was glad to see Steamboat take home the IC title. Back then, it seemed like Randy Savage was never going to lose it, but after all the despicable things he'd done to "The Dragon," it gave me a lot of satisfaction to finally see Steamboat come out on top. That match stole the show, and on a card featuring Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant, that's saying a lot.

Randy Savage winning the WWE Championship tournament at *WrestleMania IV*. Boy, was it strange seeing anyone besides Hulk Hogan wearing the championship belt around his waist! The Hulkster had been champ for four years, and, to be honest, I was getting pretty sick of the red and yellow. "Macho Man" as champion was just another thing I never expected to see.

Savage and Elizabeth reunite. Rarely has there been a more emotional

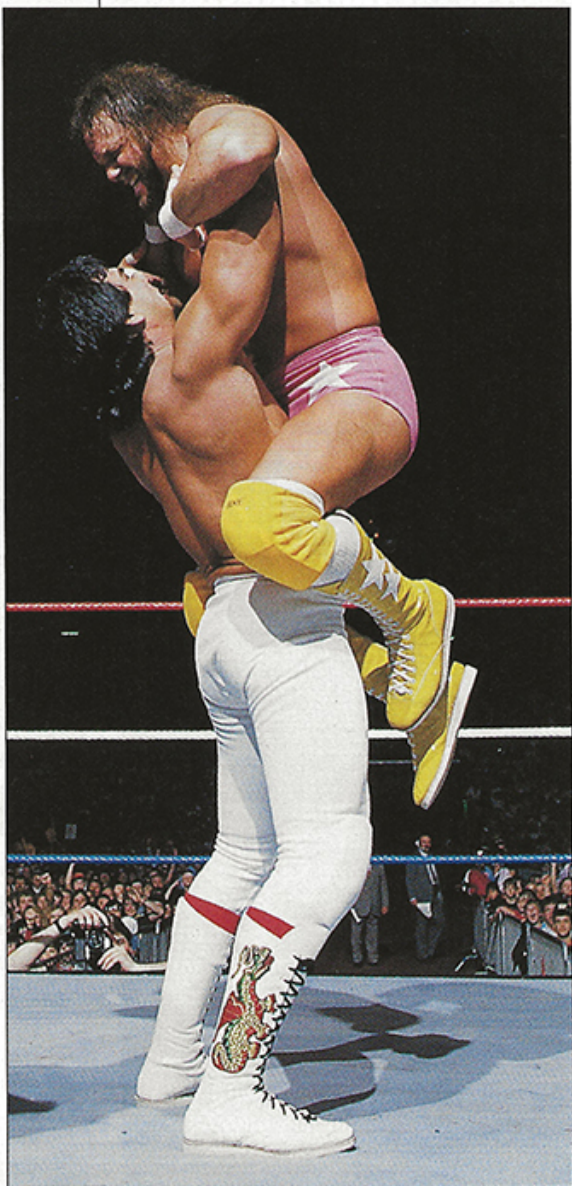
moment than this one. After losing a "retirement match" to Ultimate Warrior at *WrestleMania XII*, Savage was suffering a browbeating from his manager, Queen Sherri, when the lovely Elizabeth came to his rescue from the stands. As the two embraced in the ring after being apart for two years, you could see people in the crowd weeping.

The Ladder Match. The event was *WrestleMania X*, live from Madison Square Garden. Being there was memorable enough, but to see this match made it that much more so. I've rarely heard an ovation like the one that erupted when Razor Ramon scaled the ladder and snatched those two title belts for the victory. Not many matches actually change the sport—this was one of them.

Pete Rose takes the Tombstone. He made three consecutive *WrestleMania* appearances, but *WrestleMania XIV* was his first and greatest. Rose was always good at making people hate him, but he never quite got what was coming to him the way he did when Kane came down to ringside and obliterated him.

The Gimmick Battle Royal. Pound for pound, *WrestleMania X-7* may have been the greatest of them all, and this was one of the reasons why. In Houston on assignment, I found it hard to keep my cool (and eventually failed) seeing guys like Hillbilly Jim, Kamala, Michael P.S. Hayes, Sgt. Slaughter and the Iron Sheik coming down to the ring in all their glory.

Icon vs. Icon. It was a battle so unlikely that we even featured it one month in *Raw Magazine's* "Fantasy Warfare." Yet, at *WrestleMania X8*, Hulk Hogan and The Rock did battle in the real world, and it certainly didn't disappoint. This was one of those times



when you just knew you were watching magic unfold right before your eyes.

What moments will be added to the list this year? With the eyes of the world on *WrestleMania XX*, there can be no question that this year affords the Superstars the greatest opportunity of all to make sure no one will ever forget their names. Who will step up and take advantage of that fact remains to be seen.

In closing, as a counterpoint, I leave you with the words of Woody Allen: "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying." ■



Playing anything with
Eddie is never a fair game

Gilman

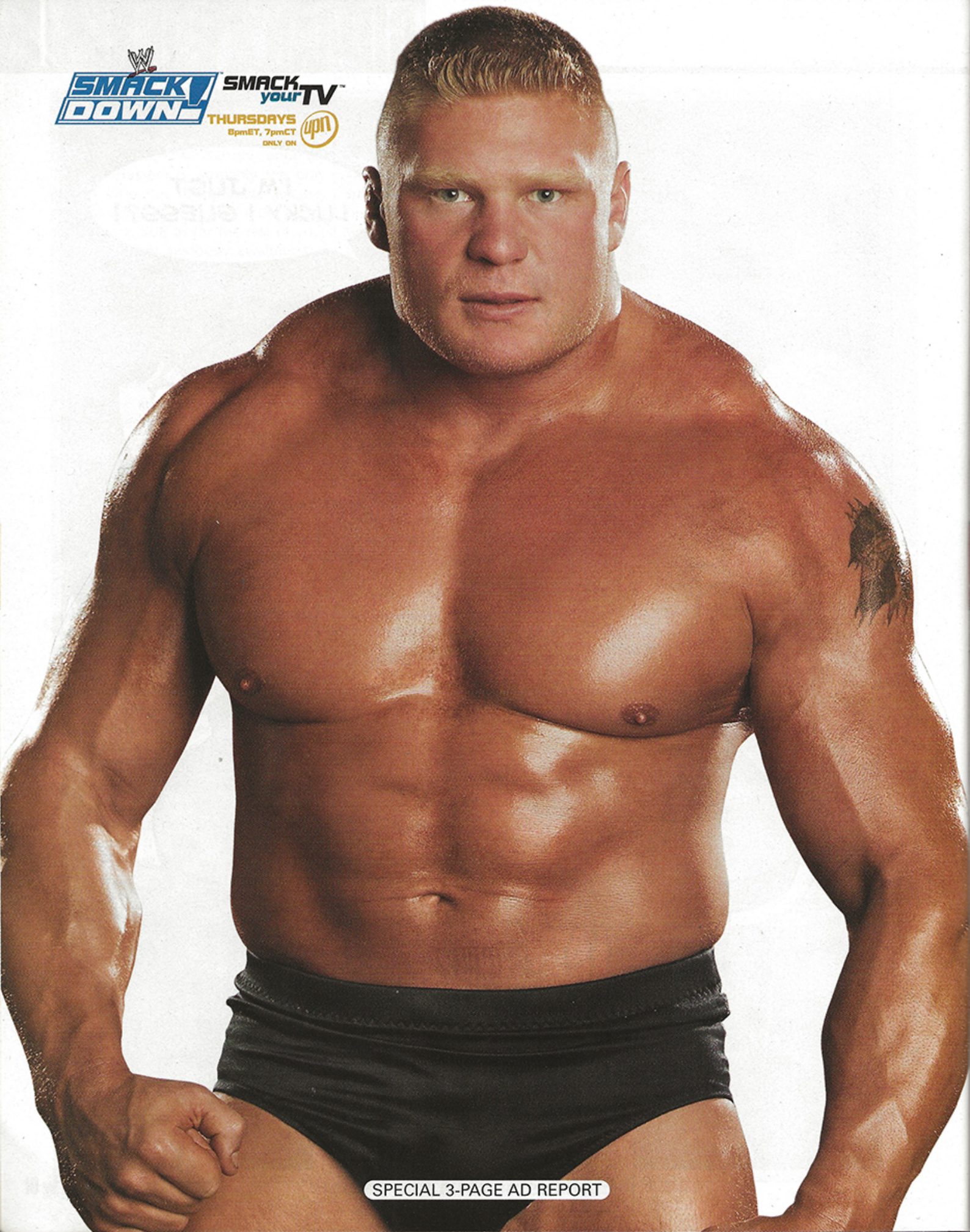

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You can see it in his eyes, hear it in his voice, and feel it with every bonecrushing body slam he delivers – this is a man who is unstoppable. He stands 6 feet 4 inches tall. He tips the scales at 295 pounds. He has the strength to carry men nearly twice his size, and has the speed and agility of a cheetah. His name is Brock Lesnar, and he is a force to be reckoned with!

The Rise To Glory

When Brock Lesnar walks into a room, arena, or stadium, people take notice. His fans, his friends, and even his rivals have to respect what he has accomplished and acknowledge that his rise to stardom was inevitable.

Brock knew at an early age that wrestling was his calling. By his senior year of high school, Brock had amassed an impressive 33-0 record. He later went on to star at the University of Minnesota where he would take his training to a new level and bulk up to his current proportions. His natural talent, intense fitness program, and pure determination helped Brock reach the pinnacle of his amateur wrestling career when he won the

NCAA heavyweight championship.

Jump ahead to 2002. In March of that year, Brock made his WWE debut, and by August of the same year, at just 25 years of age, he became the youngest undisputed champion in the history of the sport!



BROCK LESNAR STATS

Age: 26

Height: 6 feet 4 inches

Weight: 295 pounds

Birthplace: Webster, South Dakota

Career Highlight: WWE Championship

Staying On Top

Not one to stand still, Brock Lesnar is determined to stay at the top of his game. To make that happen, he is adopting a three-step approach to make sure he remains in peak physical condition and continues to add size, strength, and power to his body. The principles of his fitness regimen are simple: a strategic nutrition plan and a hardcore training routine.

Brock's Diet

To keep his body nourished and repair his hard-worked muscles, Brock maintains a diet that is high in protein with a sufficient amount of carbs. There's no question that his diet plan has a huge effect on his performance in and out of the ring.

Brock's Training

The grueling exercise regimen that Brock subjects himself to is legendary, and hard to believe unless you see it for yourself. As Brock puts it, "Training in the gym is my time to meditate, enjoy myself, and get after the weights." He also states: "I'm not there to pick up girls, and I'm not in there to make

Before

During

After



Brad's results not typical.

The NITRO-TECH/CELL-TECH stack isn't just for a WWE *SmackDown!* Superstar like Brock. Take a look at Brad Baker. With NITRO-TECH, CELL-TECH, and other MuscleTech supplements in his diet and exercise plan, Brad gained an extraordinary 15 pounds of lean mass in just 13 weeks!

friends. I just put my headset on and take care of business."

NITRO-TECH And CELL-TECH – Brock's Ultimate Stack

As Brock himself puts it, "To see great results, you need to include diet and exercise along with supplementation. There is no miracle solution

In one 8-week study, subjects who combined NITRO-TECH powder and CELL-TECH with diet and weight training gained an average of 9.6 pounds of lean mass!

out there, so train hard and incorporate supplements." That's why NITRO-TECH and CELL-TECH – from MuscleTech Research and Development – are about to become a big part of his fitness program.

Brock needs plenty of top-quality protein, which is why he'll be adding the absolutely delicious NITRO-TECH protein powder to his program. Not all protein sources are created equal and NITRO-TECH truly is a protein supplement that stands apart from others. Just like Brock Lesnar.

If you want to help push your muscle growth to new heights, Brock recommends combining NITRO-TECH with CELL-TECH – an advanced creatine musclebuilder. In one study, subjects using the NITRO-TECH/CELL-TECH stack gained an average of

stack isn't just for a WWE *SmackDown!* Superstar like Brock. Take a look at Brad Baker. While your results will vary, with NITRO-TECH, CELL-TECH, and other MuscleTech supplements in his diet and exercise plan, Brad gained an extraordinary 15 pounds of lean mass in just 13 weeks! Brad and Brock are extraordinary athletes and have been remu-

nerated for their appearances. Just imagine what you could accomplish with NITRO-TECH and CELL-TECH in your fitness plan!

A Perfect Tag Team

At just 26 years of age, Brock Lesnar is a relative newcomer. Yet, despite his rookie status, he has accomplished more than many seasoned veterans, and with NITRO-TECH and CELL-TECH set to power him, he seems poised to remain a primary attraction in an industry filled with compelling characters. With his raw ability, incredible work ethic, and pure intensity, it appears as if Brock Lesnar is here to stay and to dominate everyone and everything that comes his way!

With NITRO-TECH and CELL-TECH set to power him, Brock is poised to remain at the top of the WWE!

9.6 pounds of lean mass in 8 weeks when they combined it with diet and weight training. Brock knows that adding NITRO-TECH and CELL-TECH to his arsenal will play a major role in his quest to continue to dominate WWE. But the NITRO-TECH/CELL-TECH

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ASK THE SUPERSTARS

Got a Question?

You, the readers, have the chance to pick the brains of the *SmackDown!* Superstars on any subject you like!

Mail your questions to: *SmackDown! Magazine* • c/o World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. • 1241 E. Main Street • Stamford, CT 06902

Or e-mail your questions to: sdmag@wwe.com • With the subject line: "Ask the Superstars"

Joseph Huff asks:

Who inspired you to become a WWE Superstar?

• **Andre the Giant.** I was always a big boy, always taller and bigger than everybody else. I went through very awkward stages growing up. So I actually took on Andre as a role model—learning to use my size to do whatever I've wanted to do, whether that means intimidating people, taking their lunch money, or dominating on the basketball court or baseball and football fields. I was able to use my physical attributes, just like Andre did in the ring. Now I'm doing it in the ring. — **Matt Morgan**

• **I grew up watching wrestling,** so the inspiration was those Superstars. Bruiser Brody and Fritz Von Erich, they were the ones who really inspired me. — **Bradshaw**

• **Hulk Hogan.** The very first match that I saw was Hulk Hogan vs. Iron Sheik when Hogan first won the title. I became a wrestling fan. — **John Cena**

• **The biggest influences** on me through the years were the veterans that I met on the independent circuit before I was picked up by ECW. Jimmy Snuka, King Kong Bundy, Buddy Landell—the list is endless. Through them, I learned a lot of respect for the business. Because of that, I knew it was my job to be the best that I can be. — **Dawn Marie**

• **The first time** I realized I wanted to be a WWE Superstar was *WrestleMania III*, after I saw Ricky Steamboat vs. Randy Savage. But later on, Shawn Michaels and Owen Hart. — **Scotty 2 Hotty**

• **Definitely Sting.** As long as I can remember, he's been my hero. I always wanted to be like Sting. — **Akio**

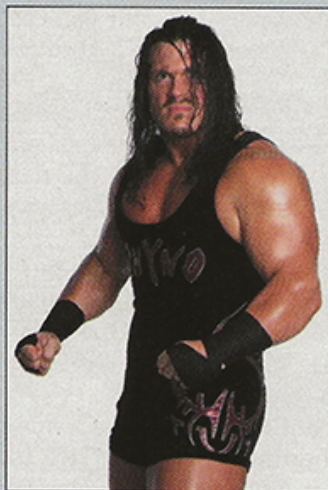
• **Ultimate Warrior, Koko B. Ware and my little brother, Neil.** The first show I really watched was *WrestleMania VI*. The main event was Hulk Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior. My buddies were big Warrior fans. I caught Warrior fever after seeing that match. And after I started watching, I thought Koko was the flashiest around. I loved his style. And just having a little brother, I wanted to be a good influence. — **Spanky**

• **Mr. Perfect** was probably my biggest inspiration, as well as The Rockers—especially Marty Jannetty. And James Dean, actually. He was real inspirational. His acting

was great, and he never had the support of his parents. I didn't have the support of my family, either, but I knew that wrestling was what I wanted to do. So I wanted to make an impact like he made in acting. — **Paul London**

• **My dad.** He didn't want to see his kid lying around on the sofa at 315 pounds. He had a feeling there was something out there for me. If my dad didn't put his foot to my ass and make me get off the sofa, I'd be towing cars or doing something else. — **Bill DeMott**

• **Dynamite Kid.** He really inspired me to become a wrestler in the first place. But once I saw him go from working in Stampede Wrestling for Stu Hart, into WWE, I was just so happy and so proud. It made me want to become a WWE Superstar that much more, because this is the top of the ladder. — **Chris Benoit**



• **Hulk Hogan.** Watching WWE as a kid, I was a big Hogan fan. I think half the locker room was inspired by Hogan. But if it wasn't for my mom, I would never have been in wrestling or played football. My mom signed up my brother and I for football. In the summertime, wearing the pads and running laps... it sucked. We wanted to quit. But my mom forked out \$40 each for us—\$80 total. She basically told us

that we had to finish out the season. I ended up playing eight years of football. And if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have played sports and would have never got into this sport. — **Rhyno**

• **Magnum T.A. and Wahoo McDaniel.** At a very impressionable age, I saw them go about an hour for the U.S. title. It was the first match that I was emotionally involved in. It was basically the match that opened my eyes to this. I'd seen sporadic matches here and there, but that was the one that made me think, "Wow, this is amazing." — **Shelton Benjamin**

TRUE COLORS

How Kurt Angle Has Proven That He Really Is Better Than You

By Aaron Williams

IT IS ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHO IS GENERALLY CREDITED with saying, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time." Obviously, Honest Abe never met Kurt Angle.

Just a few short months ago, Angle was America's darling. Each and every time he entered an arena, he was met with a thunderous ovation. He was humble, played by the rules, and, more often than not, continued to add to his legacy as perhaps the greatest Superstar of all time.

Sure, the fans chanted "You Suck!" when he came out to the ring, but it was much more of a celebratory cheer than a derisive one. It was fun, and fans enjoyed yelling the phrase. If you watched closely, you could even see Kurt mouthing the words, nodding his head and smiling.

To the masses, Kurt was one of them. Long gone were his days of braggadocio and browbeating. The three "I's"? Just another footnote to history. Kurt Angle was a changed man and every *SmackDown!* fan knew it and embraced him. Even the Great Emancipator himself must have been smiling in heaven, thinking that Angle would now lead his people to a brighter and better future. Right?

How foolish could you all be? How gullible? Remember when Angle was yelling, "You Suck!" and smiling when he walked down to the ring? Well, he wasn't kidding or doing it to sing along with all of you—he was saying it because he meant it. And when you think about it, he may very well be right.

After all, how many Olympic gold medals have *you* won? How many NCAA and World Championships do *you* own?

Have *you* won the WWE Championship? Did *you* earn straight A's in school? Please, don't even waste your time getting angry. The facts are the facts, and the facts are not on your side.

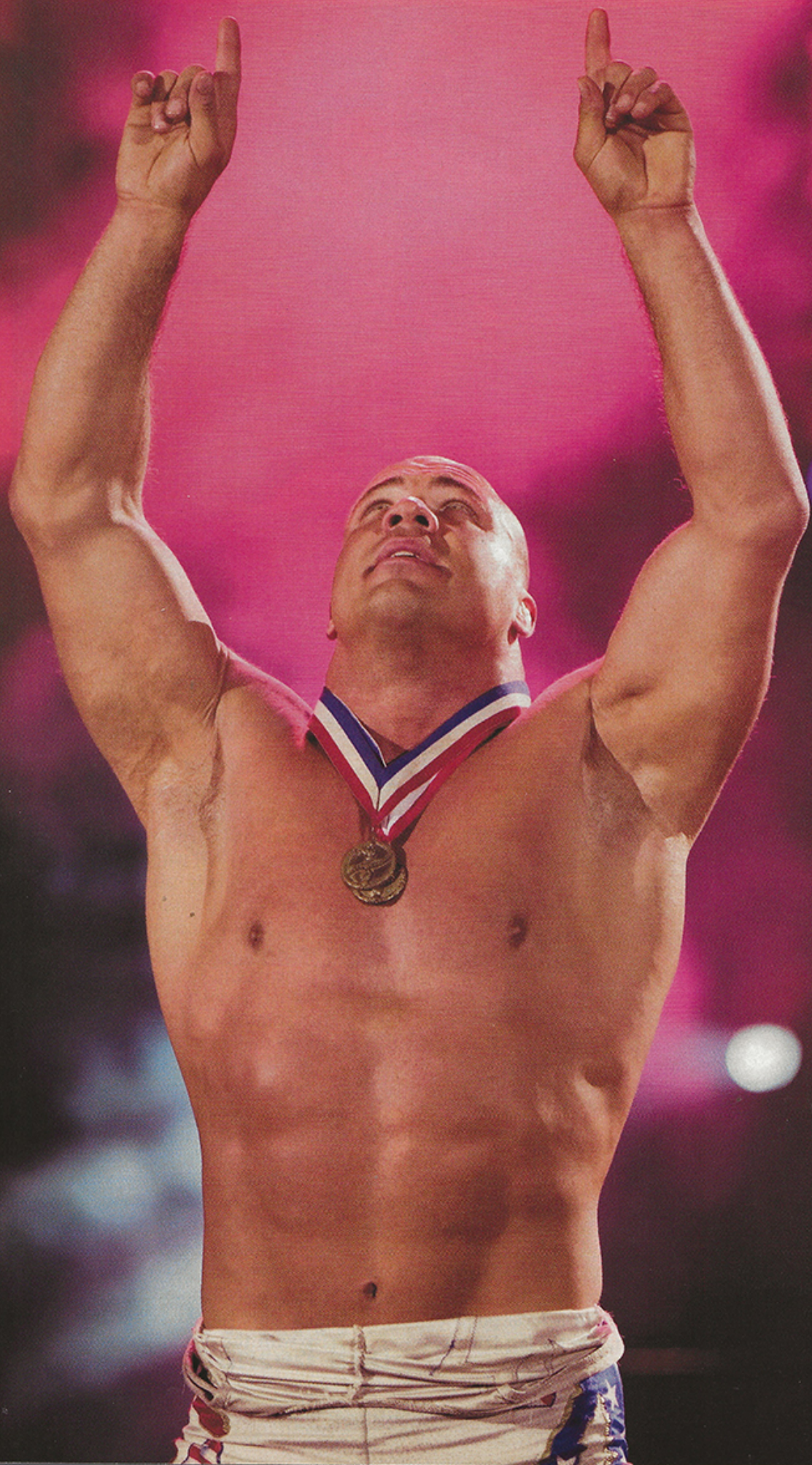
Kurt Angle's mind is far superior to that of the average *SmackDown!* fan. That may not be saying much, but it is necessary to keep in mind when unearthing the root causes of Angle's actions.

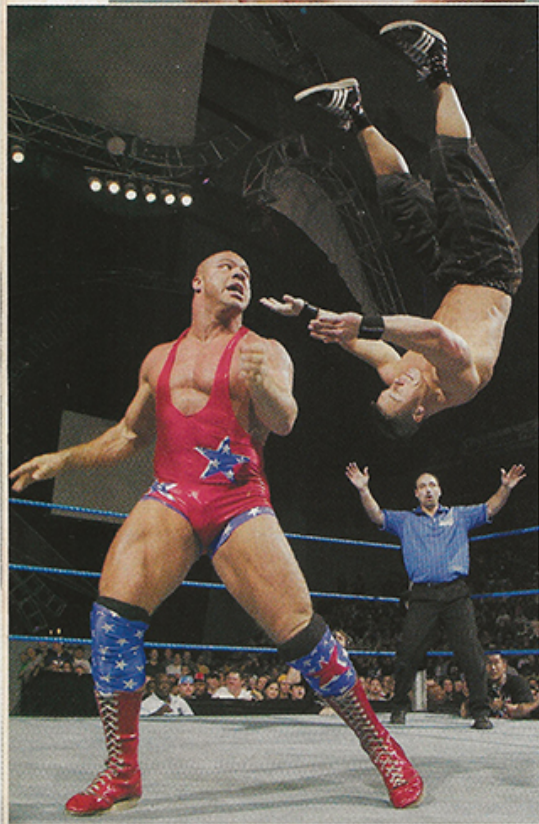
This may be difficult for you to fathom, but Angle's recent attempts to win you over were nothing more than an intellectual experiment for the Einstein of the mat game. In case you've forgotten, intelligence is one of the three "I's," and Angle is super-saturated with the grey matter.

Although all the facts are not in, some insiders claim that Angle made a wager with an unnamed Superstar to see if he could have every fan in the world cheer for him, and his actions did indeed put you in his corner for most of 2003 and the beginning of 2004.

Playing with the emotions of others may seem like a cruel thing to do, but in this case it was actually an act of generosity by your American Hero. He is, after all, what all of you should aspire to be, and there is the remote possibility that by liking him, whether he cares or not, you may pick up some of his good habits and improve your own lot in life. Come to think of it, Angle's perceived manipulation of your emotions was nothing less than a magnanimous gesture.

But, what else would you expect from the most integritous man in the business? Not only has he had your best interests at heart (remember, you don't understand his ways), but he also has never resorted to the unfair tactics that many other





Superstars frequently employ during their matches.

Integrity—it's a rare quality these days, but, thankfully, Mr. Angle displays it every Thursday evening. It's been another constant his entire career (along with intelligence, intensity, and, of course, success), and never has integrity been more of a focal point of Angle's efforts than in the last few weeks.

No matter who he faces, no matter what type of underhanded tactics his opponents may use, Angle never compromises his integrity, and it is very refreshing to see, particularly at a time when everyone is caught up in all the hoopla of lying, cheating and stealing. Indeed, Angle's honorable actions prove once again that he is superior to his opponents and all who cheer them.

As far as intensity goes, five years after coming to WWE, Angle is more intense than ever. Sure, there are many intense athletes on *SmackDown!*. Brock Lesnar certainly comes to mind, but none has been as intense as Angle over such a long period of time. To say that Angle is the most intense competitor to ever lace up a pair of boots might be the most accurate statement ever made.

What does all this have to do with Angle proving himself to be smarter than everyone else in the universe? Everything. Obviously, a man of such intelligence would tackle every single task with the utmost integrity. Angle's

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actions and words, especially his recent ones, are the physical manifestation of his tremendous intelligence.

Does this mean that you are wrong to boo him now? Of course it does. It's not surprising that Angle gets booed now, but it is wrong. Don't think for a minute, though, that your actions—or reactions—will have any effect on him. Yell and scream all you want, but it won't matter. The man is impervious to boorish insults.

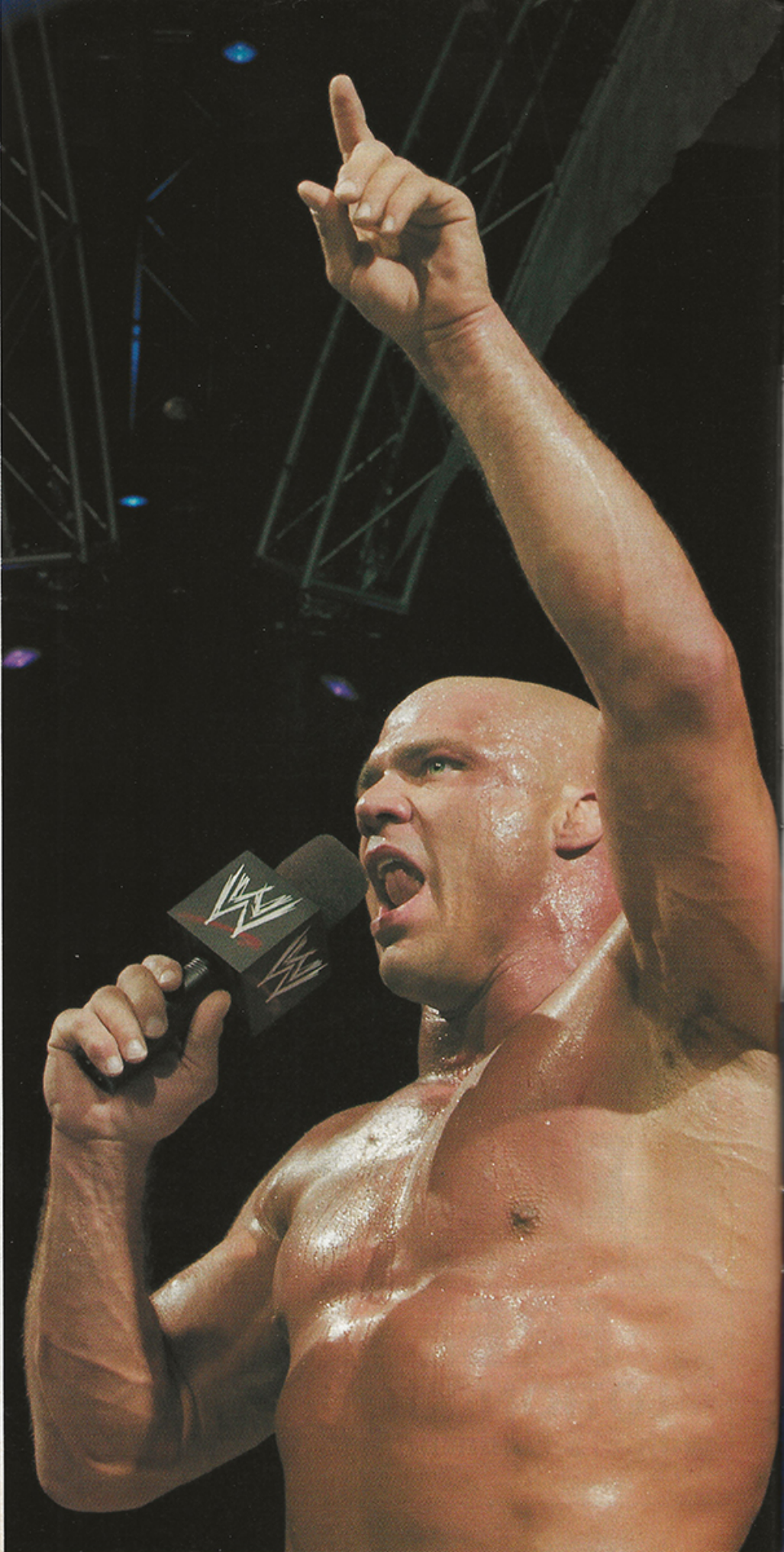
Turning to the other Superstars on the roster, surely they must be worried what your hero is planning. Angle has a blueprint, and as he has with all his previous plans, he will surely succeed. How many Superstars will succumb to his honest and true tactics over the coming months? How high can you count?

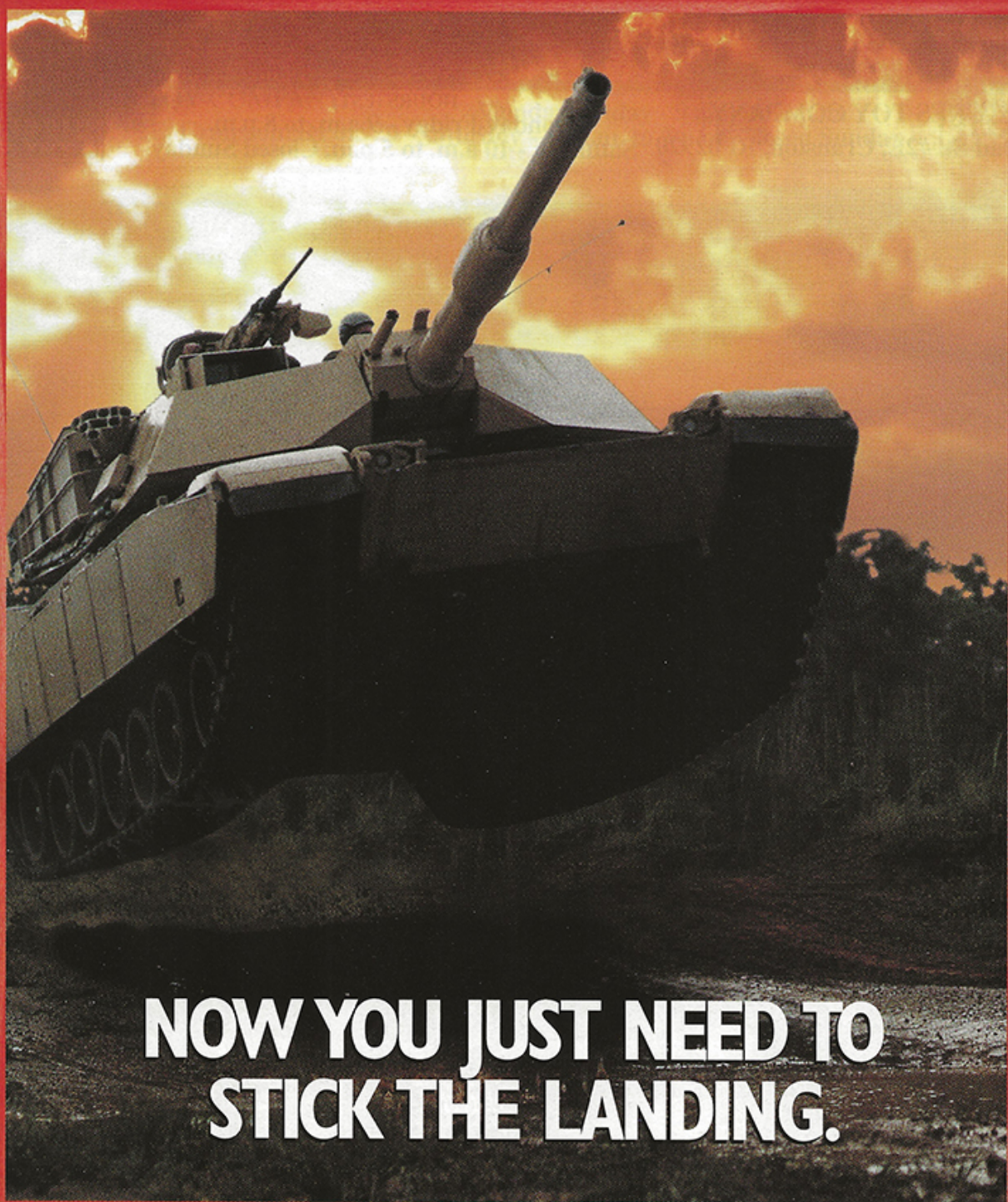
The big question is how you and all the millions of *SmackDown!* fans will respond to Angle. Will you support him in his quest to become the greatest champion of all time? Probably not, but that does not mean things will change. It's certainly not inconceivable that Angle will induce you to cheer for him again. As he has proven in the past, he certainly is capable of garnering your hearts and minds, no matter what you wish for yourselves.

Conventional wisdom, however, says that you will put your hearts and souls into someone else. Eddie Guerrero, Brock Lesnar, John Cena, Big Show—there are so many top-quality Superstars on *SmackDown!* that deserve the admiration of the masses. Yet, if you really stop to think about it, if you reach down into your hearts, you know that there is one man who deserves to be put on a pedestal above all others. There is one man who you want your children to grow up to be like. There is one man who you admire the most, despite the fact that he has proven that he is more honorable than you.

Listen to him, follow his ways, work as hard as he does. It makes no sense to fight against a rising tide. Kurt Angle is your man. You can boo him as much as you want, but you'll only be lying to yourselves. ■

[Editor's Note: *SmackDown!* Magazine does not endorse the opinions of Aaron Williams, nor does it support the validity of the word "integrityous."]





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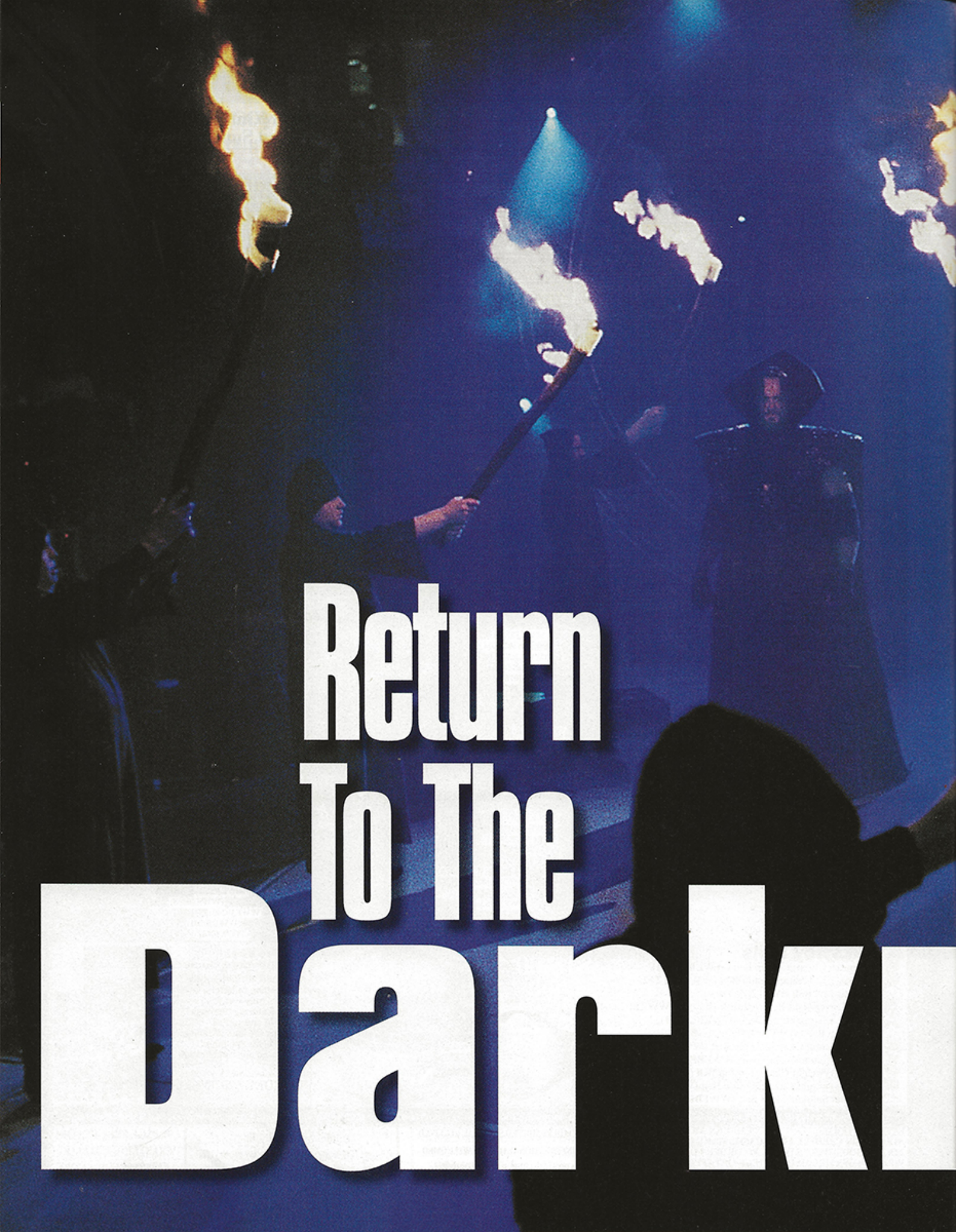
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The background image is a dark, moody scene. Several figures in dark, hooded robes are visible. They are holding long, flaming torches that cast a bright orange and yellow light. The background is a deep blue, with a single spotlight shining down from above. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and ominous.

Return
To The

Darkest



By Keith Elliot Greenberg

Once again, it was supposed to be over. Undertaker lay at the bottom of a pit at *Survivor Series* while dirt was shoveled atop his prone body. Soon, the Phenom was covered in soil as fans looked at each other, shaking their heads, wondering if this time, Undertaker had truly been laid to rest.

Above ground, Undertaker's half-brother, Kane, contorted his face into a ghastly smile. A bloody Vince McMahon darted his eyes wildly around the arena, portraying a mixture of perverse glee and deadly fear. The joy was rooted in the realization that were it not for Kane's assistance, the mogul would have lost this Buried Alive Match to the man who created it. The fear came from the knowledge that he was dealing with Undertaker—a man who'd returned from the ashes before to inflict harm on those he despised.

With the 'Taker's newest return scheduled for *WrestleMania XX* in Madison Square Garden, Vince McMahon, and everyone else in WWE for that matter, has been left

with the inevitable question: What exactly awaits the world on March 14? Clearly McMahon has unleashed a horror he regrets ever fooling with, a man who changed the definition of cruelty in a sport known for its heartlessness.

McMahon was there, of course, 13 years earlier, at the 1990 *Survivor Series*, when Undertaker first announced his presence in WWE by chokeslamming Bret "Hit Man" Hart, introducing Koko B. Ware to the Tombstone piledriver, and battering the legendary Dusty Rhodes all the way back to the locker room. Even then, the newcomer was more than just a force of nature. He was the Grim Reaper come to life, a competitor who could rain down destruction in every corner his shadow darkened.

Early on, his power seemed to be derived from an urn, carried by his pasty-faced manager, Paul Bearer, who'd worked at Undertaker's parents' funeral parlor, and—in one clandestine encounter—fathered Kane.

The urn seemed to instill in Undertaker abilities that mortals

simply did not possess, and it emboldened him to attack the institutions that were in place before his entry into WWE. It was during a televised appearance with Bearer on his special interview segment, *The Funeral Parlor*, that Ultimate Warrior—then one of the most dynamic competitors in the game—was attacked by Undertaker, beaten unconscious, and locked in a coffin. Kamala endured a similar fate, seeing the mystical gods of his childhood taunting him from the inside of a pine box.

At first, Undertaker was feared. But he was also admired, and, in some circles, venerated. Before the Gothic movement became embedded in American society, Undertaker's followers—the so-called "creatures of the night"—were at ringside in whiteface and dour clothing, holding thorny stems of black roses in tribute to their idol.

Always, there were attempts to eliminate Undertaker. The mighty Yokozuna nearly achieved this goal in 1994, when

ness?

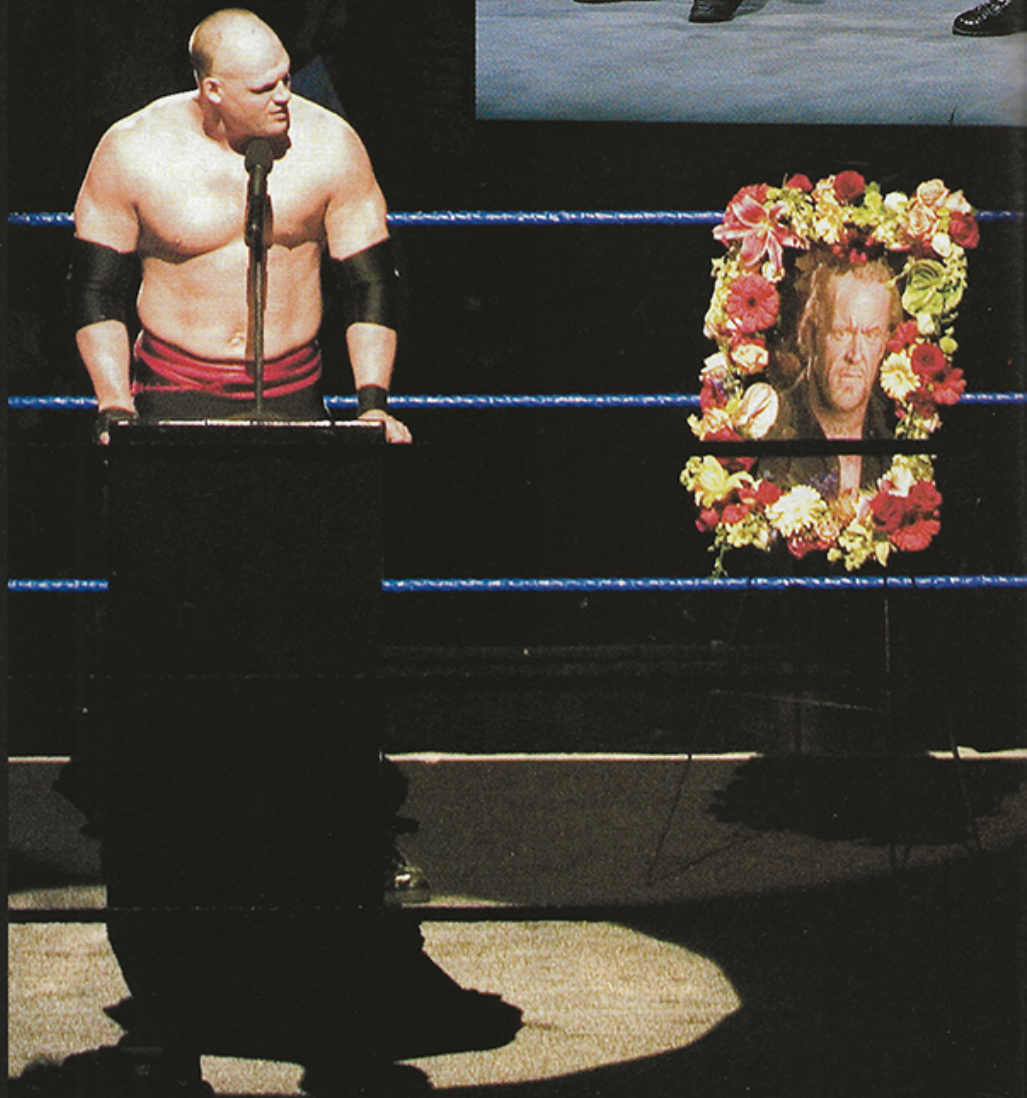
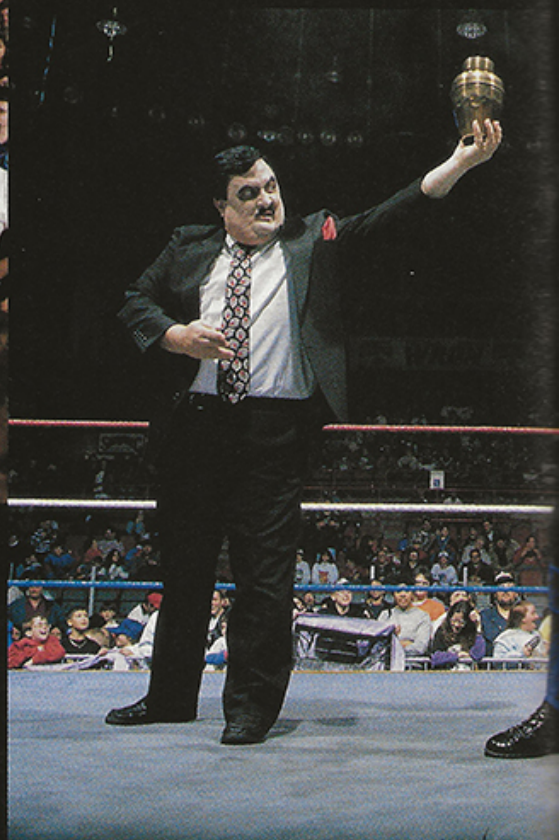


he enclosed Undertaker in a casket. As the arena blackened and a bell tolled, a mysterious green smoke rose from the Deadman's urn, while fans heard an eerie message from Undertaker himself, which vowed that his rivals would never "rest in peace." Undertaker disappeared, but there were sightings everywhere. "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase even claimed to have control over him. However, the Phenom re-emerged to reveal DiBiase's "Undertaker" as a fraud, promptly trouncing him at *SummerSlam '94*.

When Mankind lured away Paul Bearer as a manager, Undertaker gained revenge when he hurled Mankind off the top of the Hell in a Cell cage and through the Spanish announcers' table during their brutal classic at *King of the Ring* in 1998.

One of the few times that Undertaker displayed weakness was when his own past returned to stalk him. With Bearer's urging, Kane—presumed dead after a fire Undertaker set in the family funeral parlor as a boy—returned to terrorize his brother in 1997. At first, Undertaker refused to engage his sibling in combat. But as tensions escalated, the Deadman reverted to his true self and set his brother on fire in a horrifying Inferno Match at *Unforgiven* in 1998.

Whether the two ever felt love for one another is an issue worthy of far more lengthy discourse. There were



Kane may believe that he's buried Undertaker once and for all (left and bottom), but could we be on the verge of 'Taker's return to undead glory (below, and right)?



periods when Kane and Undertaker would unite before falling into conflict yet again. Undertaker also cultivated allegiances with other wounded souls, forming the Ministry of Darkness at one stage, with Mideon, Viscera, Edge, Christian and Gangrel.

In 1999, television viewers were shocked when Undertaker attempted to force Stephanie McMahon into a "black wedding"—and affixed Big Boss Man to a giant cross-like symbol. Several weeks later, at *WrestleMania XV*, Ministry members lowered themselves from the ceiling to interrupt Undertaker's Hell in a Cell match with the Boss Man, and together, they hung the former prison guard 10 feet from the canvas.

Hoping to capitalize on the group's misdirected ideals, Vince McMahon attempted to transform the Ministry into his own devious organization. But the relationship was doomed from the beginning, as cash never predicated

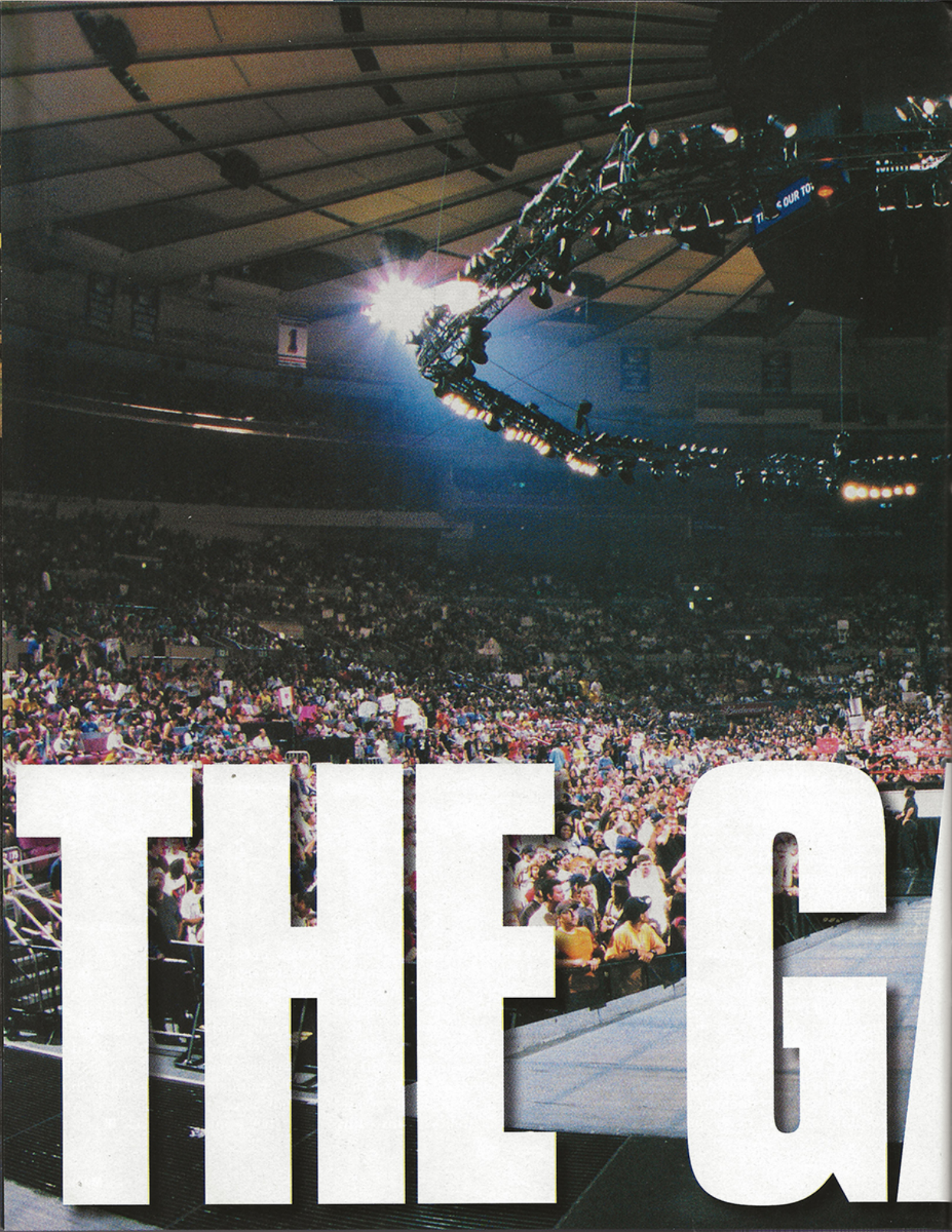


Undertaker's sinister actions.

In 2000, Undertaker began blazing to ringside on a chopper, and calling himself the "American Badass." Although many of the ghoulish references of the past were purged from his vocabulary, his opponents understood that they were still contending with "Big Evil." Only in his attic at home did he peruse through the dusty tomes of his early

years, and summon the incantations that wrought gloom upon so many. Perhaps, with a new millennium taking shape, Undertaker believed that it was best to keep old demons out of sight.

But, as Vince McMahon gazed at an exulting Kane at *Survivor Series*, the WWE chairman understood that those demons never went away—and, very soon, they would come back. ■



THE



By Brian Solomon

**THE GARDEN
WILL
ALWAYS BE**

ARDEN

WrestleMania XX is the Latest Chapter in a Great Legacy

It's a massive construction of mortar, steel and glass sitting on 820,000 square feet of land at 33rd Street and 7th Avenue in Manhattan. Yet, Madison Square Garden is so much more than that. The Garden is rightly called "The World's Most Famous Arena," because it's just that. And, for nearly half a century, it has been home to WWE and the McMahons.

This is not the only version of the Garden. There have been four of them in the past 130 years, yet the ideal of what Madison Square Garden represents remains constant. It's the quintessential public space, whose existence goes back to a time before there were arenas and stadiums in every major American city.

Boxing has been staged there for as long as the sport has been legal in the United States. Until about 20 years ago, the Garden was the undisputed pugilism capital of the world, the site of countless major bouts involving everyone from Jack Dempsey to Joe Louis to Muhammad Ali.

The Garden has also played host to the giants of popular music, including Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, Billy Joel, Elton John and Bruce Springsteen. Long before sports arenas became common locations for musical performances, MSG was a prestigious venue coveted by these stars and many others.

The New York Knicks of the NBA and New York Rangers of the NHL call it home. The Grammy Awards have been held there, as well as both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, and Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, which began there before it became a touring attraction.

And almost from its very beginning, World Wrestling Entertainment has been based in Madison Square Garden. Once a regional organization centered in the Northeast, WWE has traditionally used the Garden as its premier venue, staging its most memorable events there on a regular basis. In the days before pay-per-view and national broadcasts, WWE's monthly shows at MSG were the most important on the calendar. And even in the years since, there has always been something very special about the arena that still makes it the mecca of sports-entertainment.

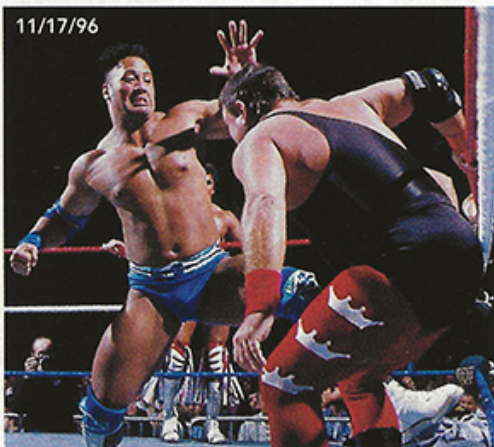
"The McMahon family business is synonymous with Madison Square Garden," Vince McMahon says. "It's where our roots are. Madison Square Garden will always have a very special place in my heart because of my dad. In his vernacular, it was 'The Gahh-den'. His expression was, 'The Gahh-den

will always be the Gahh-den, Vinny!' And it will. It's always been magic."

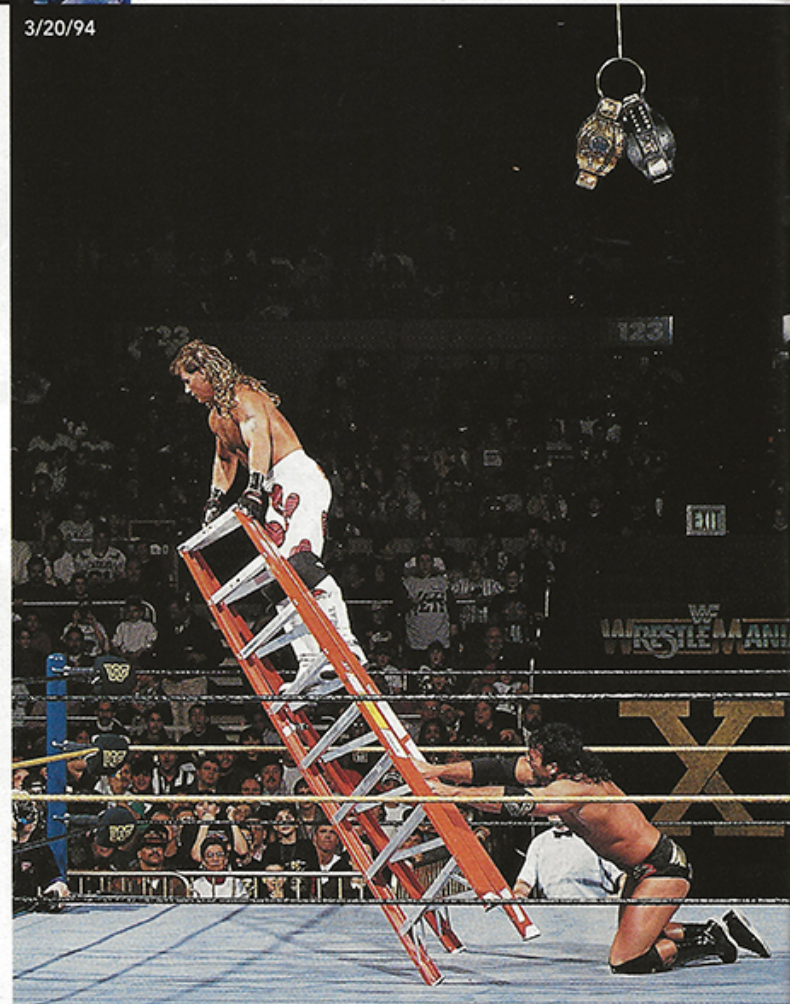
But the McMahons' connection to the Garden didn't begin with Vince McMahon's father Vincent J. McMahon, or with sports-entertainment. Rather, it began with Vince's grandfather, Roderick "Jess" McMahon, and with boxing.

In the 1910s and '20s, Jess McMahon was one of America's pre-eminent boxing promoters. In 1925, he joined forces with New York boxing impresario Tex Rickard to present the first boxing event held at the third Madison Square Garden on 8th Avenue. McMahon remained Rickard's matchmaker for years, staging some of MSG's most historic boxing matches.

WWE's connection to the arena dates back to 1956, and the company begun by Vincent J. McMahon, originally called the Capitol Wrestling Corporation. After winning a promotional war in the late 1950s, McMahon emerged in 1960 with sole rights to wrestling at Madison



3/20/94



Square Garden. It has remained in the McMahon family ever since.

"We've always known the Garden as the house my grandfather built," Stephanie McMahon says. "That's how Shane and I know it. Madison Square Garden is the cornerstone of our company."

Over the decades, the prestige of the Garden has grown as WWE has grown. Every wrestler in America wanted to work for WWE, and the place they most wanted to appear was Madison Square Garden. They wanted to be a part of the history that had been made there by those who went before them.

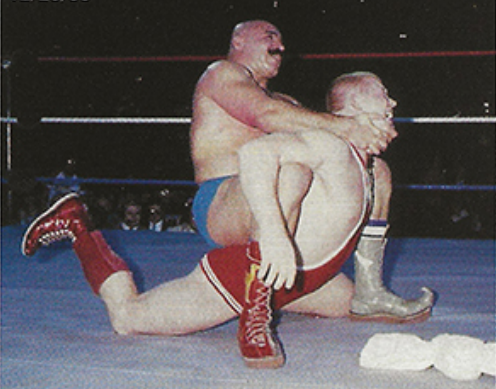
"I don't think I knew the magnitude of it then," says Ric Flair, who made two appearances at MSG as a young up-and-comer in the 1970s. "But I was going to New York, and I knew it was a big venue. I had always heard about Madison Square Garden. I wasn't an opening match guy in the Carolinas, but I was there at the Garden. The fans didn't know me, but I was just honored to be there—it was a big deal. Great atmosphere. I brought my dad. It was pretty cool."

"Madison Square Garden is the place you want to get to in our business," says Sgt. Slaughter,

who headlined the Garden against Bob Backlund, Bruno Sammartino, the Iron Sheik and Hulk Hogan. "The main event at Madison Square Garden—when you're first starting in the business, that's where you strive to get to. Coming to the Garden is always something you look forward to, especially if you've ever been in the middle of the arena with the place sold out. The fans here are the greatest in world, but you have to entertain them. They let you know if they're not being entertained. There's nothing like Madison Square Garden. Nothing like it in the world."

It's been the site of 51 WWE title changes, including 11 apiece for the WWE Championship and the World Tag Team Championship, eight for the Intercontinental Championship, five for the Women's Championship, one for the Cruiserweight Championship, one each for the defunct Women's Tag Team, Junior Heavyweight, Light Heavyweight, and International

12/26/83



THE SAGA OF WWE AT THE GARDEN

12/11/25: The McMahon legacy with the Garden begins when family patriarch Jess McMahon helps promote the first boxing event at the new MSG on 8th Avenue, a light-heavyweight fight between Paul Berlenbach and Jack Delaney.

11/26/56: Vincent J. McMahon promotes his first Madison Square Garden wrestling event. This begins WWE's relationship with MSG, as over the next four years, McMahon gains exclusive rights to hold wrestling there.

3/30/57: Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez become McMahon's first U.S. Tag Team Champions, beginning the lineage that leads to today's World Tag Team titles.

11/19/57: A riot erupts following a post-match brawl between Rocca & Edouard Carpentier and Dick the Bruiser & Dr. Jerry Graham. The story makes headlines nationwide and is

featured in *Life* magazine.

1/2/60: Bruno Sammartino makes his Garden debut.

5/21/60: Sammartino bodyslams the 601-pound Haystacks Calhoun.

2/27/61: McMahon begins a streak of sellouts at the Garden when Buddy Rogers, on the verge of winning the NWA World title, becomes the area's top attraction.

5/17/63: Sammartino beats Rogers in 48 seconds to take the brand-new WWE Championship and begin the longest World title reign in wrestling history.

8/2/63: Gorilla Monsoon makes his Garden debut.

5/11/64: Sammartino and Monsoon engage in their famous 70-minute, time-limit draw.

1/29/68: Sammartino beats Prof. Toru Tanaka in the last wrestling event at the 8th Avenue MSG.

2/19/68: WWE debuts at the current Madison Square Garden on 7th Avenue and 33rd Street. Sammartino beats Bull Ramos in the main event.

6/15/70: Regaining TV coverage after a brief hiatus, WWE holds its first sellout at the new Garden, as Bruno takes on Crusher Verdu.

1/18/71: Ivan Koloff ends Bruno's monumental title reign before a stunned capacity crowd.

2/8/71: Pedro Morales sets things right by winning the WWE title from Koloff just three weeks later.

12/6/71: Karl Gotch & Rene Goulet take the World Tag Team title from Tarzan Tyler & Luke Graham.

titles, two each for the defunct U.S. Tag Team and International Tag Team titles, and seven for the Hardcore title. Eight pay-per-view events have been held there—two *WrestleManias*, three *SummerSlams*, two *Survivor Series* and one *Royal Rumble*.

"The history, all the great bouts that have taken place here—that's what makes it so special," says Dick Kroll, who, from 1960 to 1985, officiated more MSG main events than any other referee. "It's in the middle of all of the media, as

well as one of the biggest population centers in the country. I refereed in the old Garden, too. As a matter of fact, I refereed the last show there, and the new building is much nicer. Much better sight lines, larger capacity. The old building was historic, too, but not as nice a building."

Bridging four generations of McMahons, as well as two different buildings, the connection between WWE and Madison Square Garden has endured the test of time. A select few, like longtime wrestler, manager and McMahon family business

5/22/72: Chief Jay Strongbow & Sonny King become the first interracial World Tag Team Champions with a win over Baron Mikel Scicluna & King Curtis.

7/1/72: The Fabulous Moolah beats Vicki Williams in the first women's match held at the Garden.

3/26/73: Andre the Giant makes his WWE debut at the Garden.

12/10/73: Sammartino regains the WWE Championship by defeating Stan Stasiak.

4/14/75: Spiros Arion challenges Sammartino in a classic Greek Death Match.

3/1/76: Ric Flair makes the first of two long-forgotten '70s MSG appearances, beating Pete Sanchez.

4/26/76: Stan Hansen breaks Sammartino's neck with his dreaded Lariat clothesline.

2/20/78: Bob Backlund wins the WWE Championship from Superstar Billy Graham.

6/26/78: The Yukon Lumberjacks take the World Tag Team title from Dino Bravo & Dominic Denucci.

8/28/78: Graham opposes Dusty Rhodes in a brutal Indian Bullrope match.

12/18/78: The NWA World title is defended in MSG for the first time in 16 years as Harley Race takes on Tony Garea.

7/2/79: Backlund takes on Pat Patterson in the first of a record-setting four consecutive Garden main events.

10/22/79: Tito Santana & Ivan Putski win the World Tag Team titles from the Valiant Brothers.

12/17/79: Hulk Hogan makes his MSG debut, beating Ted DiBiase.

4/21/80: Ken Patera wins the newly created Intercontinental Championship from Patterson.

9/22/80: Backlund and Race face off in a WWE/NWA World Championship unification match. Backlund wins by DQ.

12/8/80: Sammartino beats Sgt. Slaughter in his last Garden appearance before his retirement the following September.

5/4/81: Patterson and Slaughter face off in the infamous Alley Fight.

8/24/81: After having had his leg broken by Killer Khan, Andre beats Khan in a Mongolian Stretcher match. The same night, Backlund and the Magnificent Muraco battle to a one-hour draw.

11/23/81: Pedro Morales takes back the Intercontinental title from Muraco.

6/28/82: Vincent K. McMahon presents his first Garden show after taking over the reigns from his father. Backlund defends his title against Jimmy Snuka in a legendary steel cage match, and the Strongbows take the World Tag Team title from Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito.

1/22/83: Muraco regains the Intercontinental title from Morales.

10/17/83: With a young Mick Foley watching from the stands, Snuka makes a death-defying leap from atop a steel cage onto Muraco in an IC title match.

12/26/83: Controversy reigns as Backlund loses the WWE Championship to the Iron Sheik when his manager, Arnold Skaaland, throws in the towel.



1/23/84: The *Hulkamania* era begins when the Hulkster takes the WWE title from the Sheik in just over five minutes.

6/16/84: Slaughter and the Iron Sheik meet in their classic Boot Camp match.

7/23/84: WWE airs its first MTV special, *The Brawl to Settle it All*, in which pop star Cyndi Lauper leads Wendi Richter to victory over Fabulous Moolah, ending her 28-year reign as Women's Champion.

2/18/85: WWE's second MTV special, *The War to Settle the Score*, sets the stage for the greatest extravaganza in sports-entertainment.

partner Arnold Skaaland, have been there through it all. Skaaland debuted at the Garden in the pre-McMahon days, and still returns backstage whenever WWE is in town.

"I come back and I look around, and think about the old days, all the times I walked out in that ring," he says. "I walk down the hallways, and I remember Vince's father. It brings back a lot of memories. The old Garden was a great old place, right on 8th Avenue, you had all the stores right there. I wrestled there many a time."

On March 14, the newest and greatest chapter of WWE's history with Madison Square Garden will be written when *WrestleMania XX* erupts from the World's Most Famous Arena, live on pay-per-view. What better place to hold the 20th annual edition of the most important event on the sports-entertainment calendar?

In 1985, when the concept of *WrestleMania* was being created, there was no question as to where it would be held. And now, 20 years later, once again, the choice was simple. ■

3/31/85: History is made when the first-ever *WrestleMania* explodes from the Garden, beginning an annual tradition.

11/25/85: Moolah gets the last laugh, donning a mask as the "Spider Lady" to regain the Women's title from Richter.

8/29/88: The first *SummerSlam* is held at the Garden, featuring "The Megapowers" (Hogan & Randy Savage) vs. "The Megabucks" (Andre & DiBiase).

8/26/91: *SummerSlam* returns to the Garden, this time featuring "The Match Made in Hell" (Hogan & Ultimate Warrior vs. Slaughter, Col. Mustafa & Gen. Adnan) and "The Match Made in

place where it all began, celebrating ten years of the crown jewel of sports-entertainment. The card is highlighted by the Shawn Michaels/Razor Ramon Ladder Match and Bret Hart's victory for the WWE Championship.

11/26/94: Diesel takes the WWE Championship from Backlund in eight seconds in the shortest World title match in history.

5/19/96: Kevin Nash and Scott Hall make their last WWE appearances before leaving for WCW. At the end of the show, they're embraced in the ring by Shawn Michaels and Triple H.

11/17/96: *Survivor Series* comes to the Garden, and features the debut of The Rock, and Sycho Sid's victory over Shawn Michaels to win the WWE Championship.

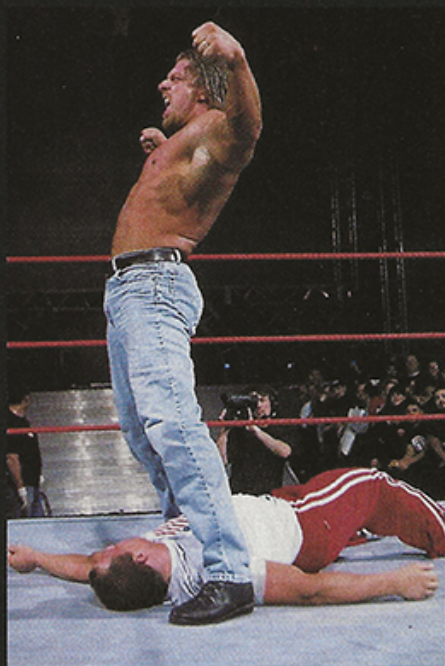
9/22/97: *Raw* is held at MSG for the first time. Mick Foley becomes Cactus Jack, and Vince McMahon takes his first Stone Cold Stunner.

12/27/98: The first of 18 consecutive sellouts—a WWE record—is held.

8/30/98: The "Highway to Hell" ends at *SummerSlam*, where Stone Cold Steve Austin and Undertaker collide. Triple H also takes the IC title from The Rock in a Ladder Match.

1/23/00: The *Royal Rumble* is presented from the Garden. Tazz debuts, and Triple H defends the WWE title against Cactus Jack in a Street Fight.

6/25/01: *Raw* returns. Albert wins the Intercontinental title from Kane.



1/7/02: Triple H returns to action on *Raw* after being sidelined for eight months with a torn quadriceps.

6/29/02: Hogan returns to the Garden for the first time in over a decade.

11/17/02: The 16th annual *Survivor Series* emanates from MSG. Shawn Michaels wins the World title in an Elimination Chamber, and Big Show wins the WWE title from Brock Lesnar.

6/23-6/24/03: *Raw* and *SmackDown!* are held on back-to-back nights. Kane is unmasked, Ultimo Dragon debuts, Hogan and Roddy Piper make their last WWE appearances.

3/14/04: *WrestleMania XX* is set to bring sports-entertainment's greatest tradition back to WWE's "home turf" for the biggest spectacular of them all.



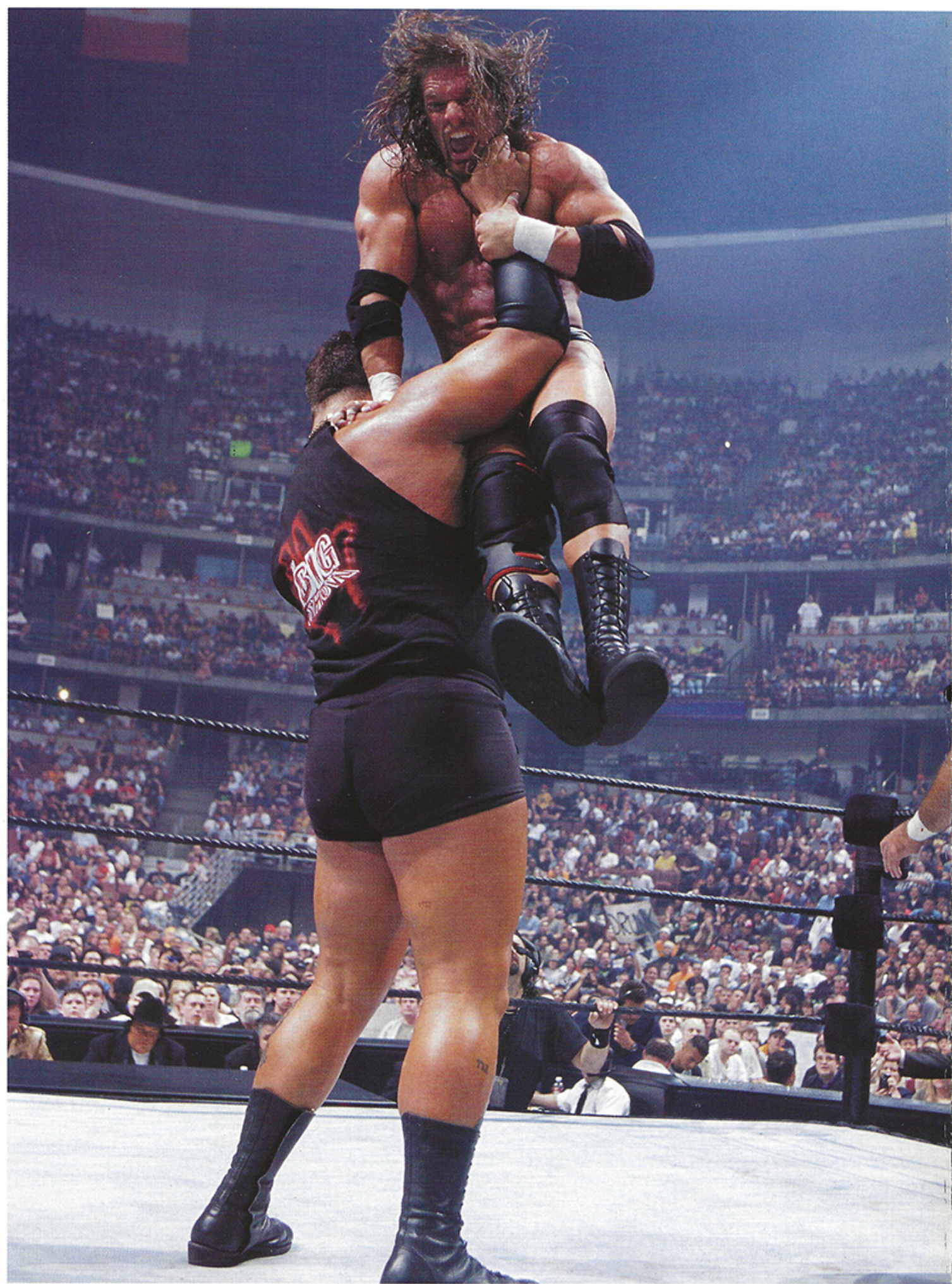
Heaven" (the wedding of Savage and Elizabeth).

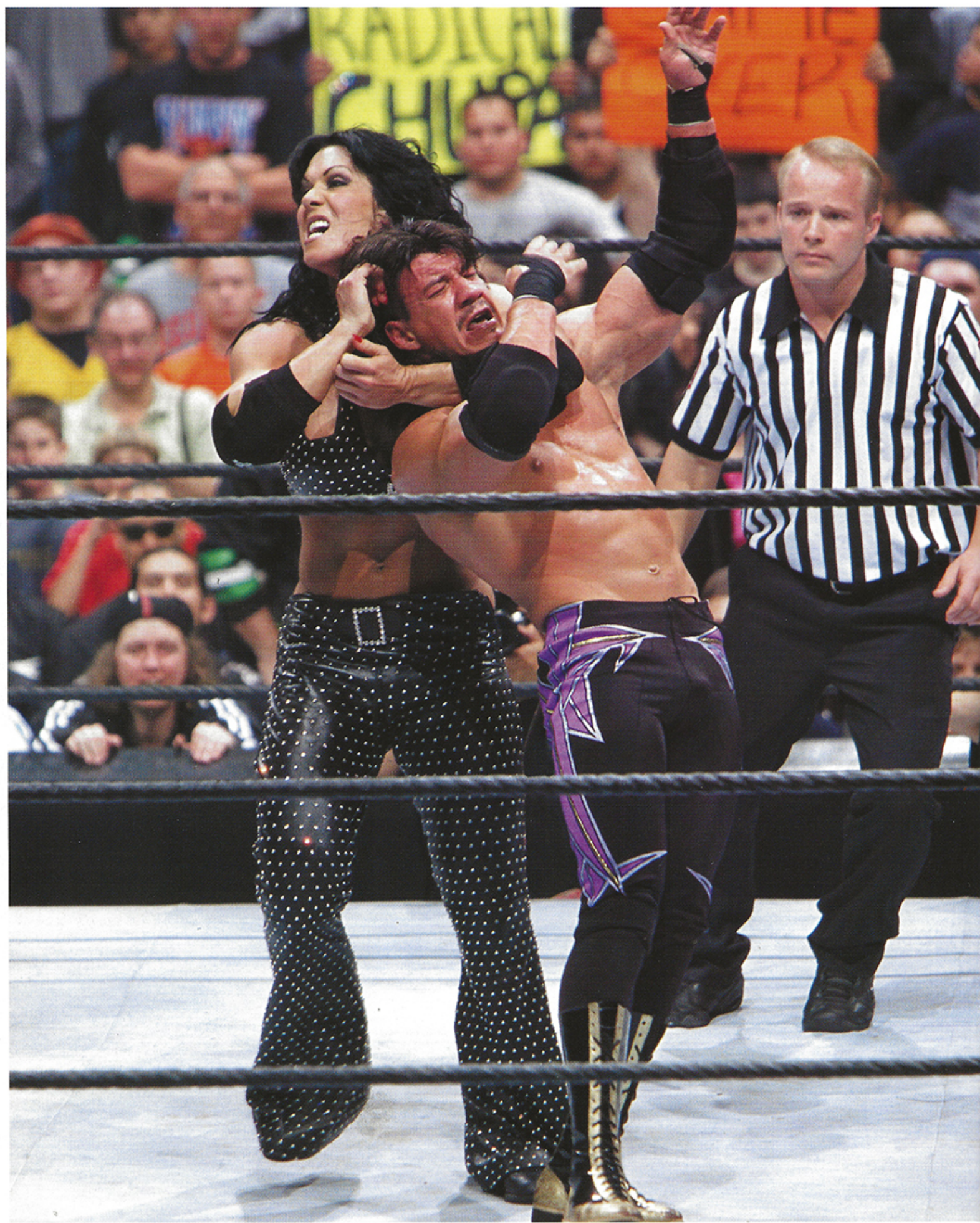
11/30/91: MSG hosts a historic clash between Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair.

1/17/94: The Quebecers win the World Tag Team title from Marty Jannetty & the 1-2-3 Kid.

3/20/94: *WrestleMania X* returns to the



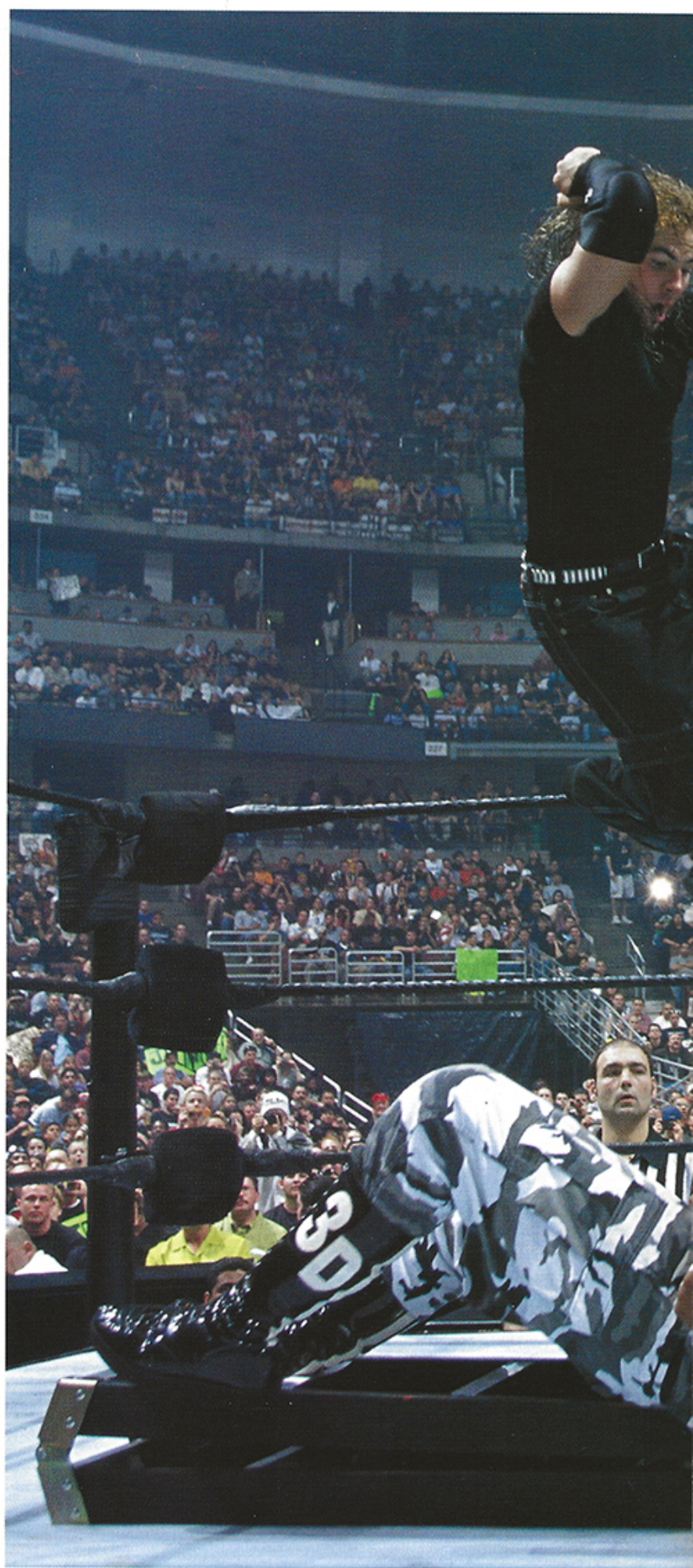
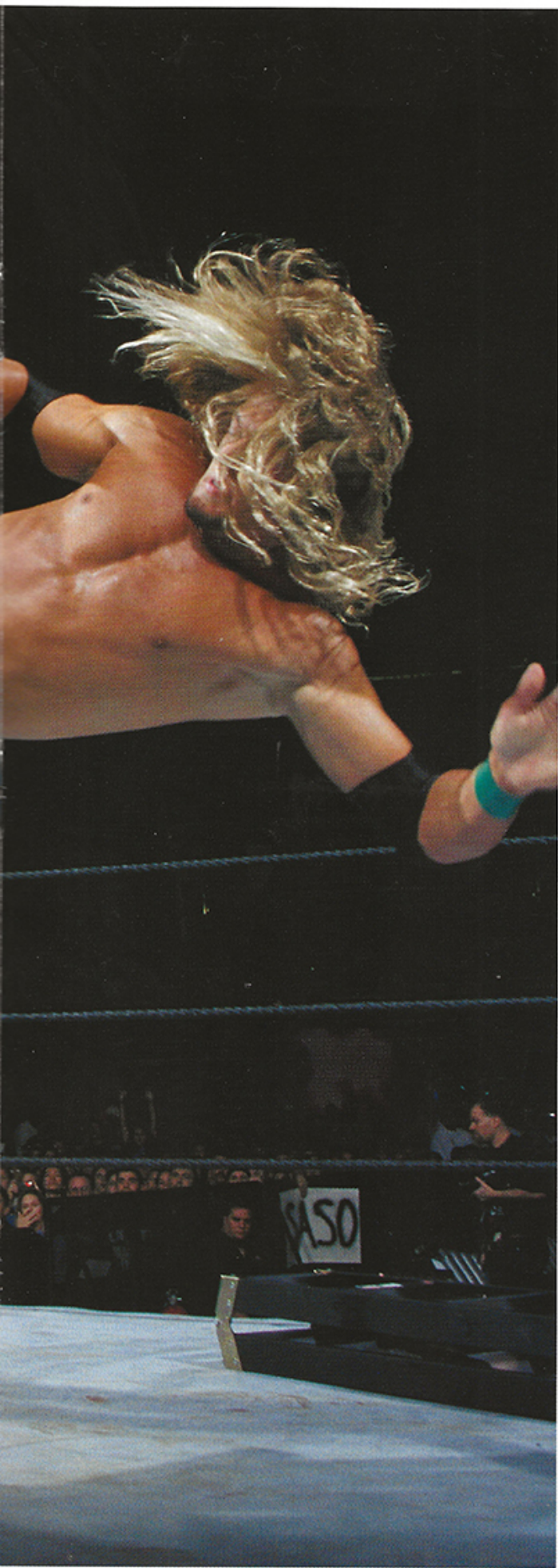




WRESTLEMANIA
2000

April 2, 2000
Arrowhead Pond
Anaheim, CA





Collector's Series
Poster No. 16



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Several weeks ago, Matt Morgan was spotted sitting at a desk several hours before *SmackDown!* was set to begin. On the desk sat a pile of books nearly two feet high, and, based upon all the bookmarks and dog-eared pages, it was obvious that the 6-foot-10 native of Fairfield, Connecticut had been studying his material for some time.

Morgan wouldn't let anyone get close to him, including his fellow Superstars and the press. Requests for an interview to discover what Morgan was reading were met with angry scowls and threats of physical harm. When he finally did get up to leave and prepare for his match that night, he made sure to collect all his books and the notes he had taken, so that no one would know what he was plotting.

THE MORGAN

A full-page photograph of a professional wrestling match. On the left, a muscular wrestler with blonde hair, wearing white trunks and a silver knee brace, is in mid-air performing a move. On the right, another muscular wrestler with dark hair, wearing a black singlet, is holding the ropes. In the background, a crowd of spectators is visible, and a person is taking a photo with a camera. The scene is lit with bright arena lights.

by Aaron Williams

Why Matt
Morgan's Time
is at Hand

IN DOCTRINE



For the next few days, *SmackDown! Magazine* attempted to set up an interview with Morgan to discuss what he was up to. All requests were denied and the mystery remained. Then, the day this magazine was set to go to press, we received an anonymous call from a very excited person.

"I've found something you might be interested in," he told the editorial desk. "If you want it, I can fax it to you."

"Sure," replied the desk staffer, "but what is it?"

"You'll see," said the caller. And with that, he hung up.

Minutes later, the fax machine chimed and one sheet of paper came rolling out. Much to our delight, it was something we wanted, and it related to the mystery we had been trying to solve. Who sent it remains a mystery, and why it was sent at this time certainly provides fodder for all the conspiracy theorists out there.

With the magazine going to press in just a few hours, a choice had to be made: print the piece of paper as is and get it in this issue, or hold off on the story for a month and try to get to the bottom of this.

The editor made a quick decision. "Who knows what this guy will ever tell us. Perhaps by getting this out to the public, we'll get more answers and get them sooner. Let's print it."

Here's what came to the office that day:

At the top of page, in big, bold, capital letters, was its title: **THE MORGAN DOCTRINE**. Below it were the following principles:

1. All warfare is based on deception.
2. When deciding when to attack, make it seem like you are unable to. When feeling strong, appear weak. When you are the opponent's enemy, make it seem you are his friend.
3. The true master defeats his opponent without fighting.
4. The legends of the past put themselves past the possibility of defeat.
5. The true champion not only wins, he wins with ease.
6. Attack him when he is unprepared; appear when you are not expected.
7. The true champion imposes his will on his opponent, and does not allow his opponent to impose his will on him.
8. When your opponent needs rest, make sure he gets none.

Needless to say, *The Morgan Doctrine* became the topic of conversation around the office that day. It was apparent that Morgan had been studying the masters,

Champion.

One longtime observer of the mat game speculated that Morgan himself was the source of the leak and that his true motive lies buried somewhere in his doctrine, but is not explicitly stated. This pundit believes that Morgan will lay down clues over the next couple of months and that leaking this document was just the first step in the process.

Others, however, disagree and say the recent changes that Morgan has displayed relate to the leaking of the *Doctrine*. They believe it was a rough draft of a code that he has been developing and is furious that it was leaked before completion.

Morgan, of course, refused to take our calls, so we received no further information from him. Others with whom he associates with either knew nothing of *The Morgan Doctrine*, or simply refused to comment on the situation.

One thing that everyone can be assured of is that Morgan will not remain silent on this issue for long. If leaking the document is part of some type of scheme to intimidate opponents, then he will surely act soon. If *The Morgan Doctrine* was not meant for public consumption,

Morgan is one of the sharpest individuals to come along in some time.

and that one of his favorites was Sun-Tzu, the wise sage who wrote *The Art of War*.

That Morgan was reading the masters and trying to figure out how to apply their wisdom to the canvas jungle comes as no surprise. A highly decorated student in college, Morgan is known among industry insiders as one of the sharpest individuals to come along in some time.

What "The Educated Giant" is up to is certainly a matter of conjecture at this point. It is not certain that this is even the final version of *The Morgan Doctrine*, or whether these are the principles that will lead him to his ultimate goal of becoming WWE

then he will have to do some serious damage control, and, for his sake, the sooner the better.

In either case, *SmackDown!* fans will be able to tell for themselves whether Morgan is "The Educated Giant" that he is purported to be, or not as smart as he seems.

Perhaps the answer to this question came in our final call to *SmackDown!*, just one hour before this magazine was printed. Our reporter at the event told us that, once again, Morgan was spotted in a back office sitting at his desk. Piled high on the desk were at least a dozen books, all filled with bookmarks and dog-eared pages. Morgan was at it again. ■

SQUARE ENIX

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Fantasy Violence



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An Experience

I'LL NEVE

I have walked out in front of some extremely large crowds in my career. The 67,925 fans we had in Houston, Texas (my home state) for *WrestleMania X-7* had to be the most memorable because of the location. What an awesome feeling it was to be able to perform in your home state in front of that many people on a stage so grand. And anytime you walk out in Madison Square Garden is an unbelievable experience. Bret Hart once said it may not be holy, but it is sacred, and I agree.

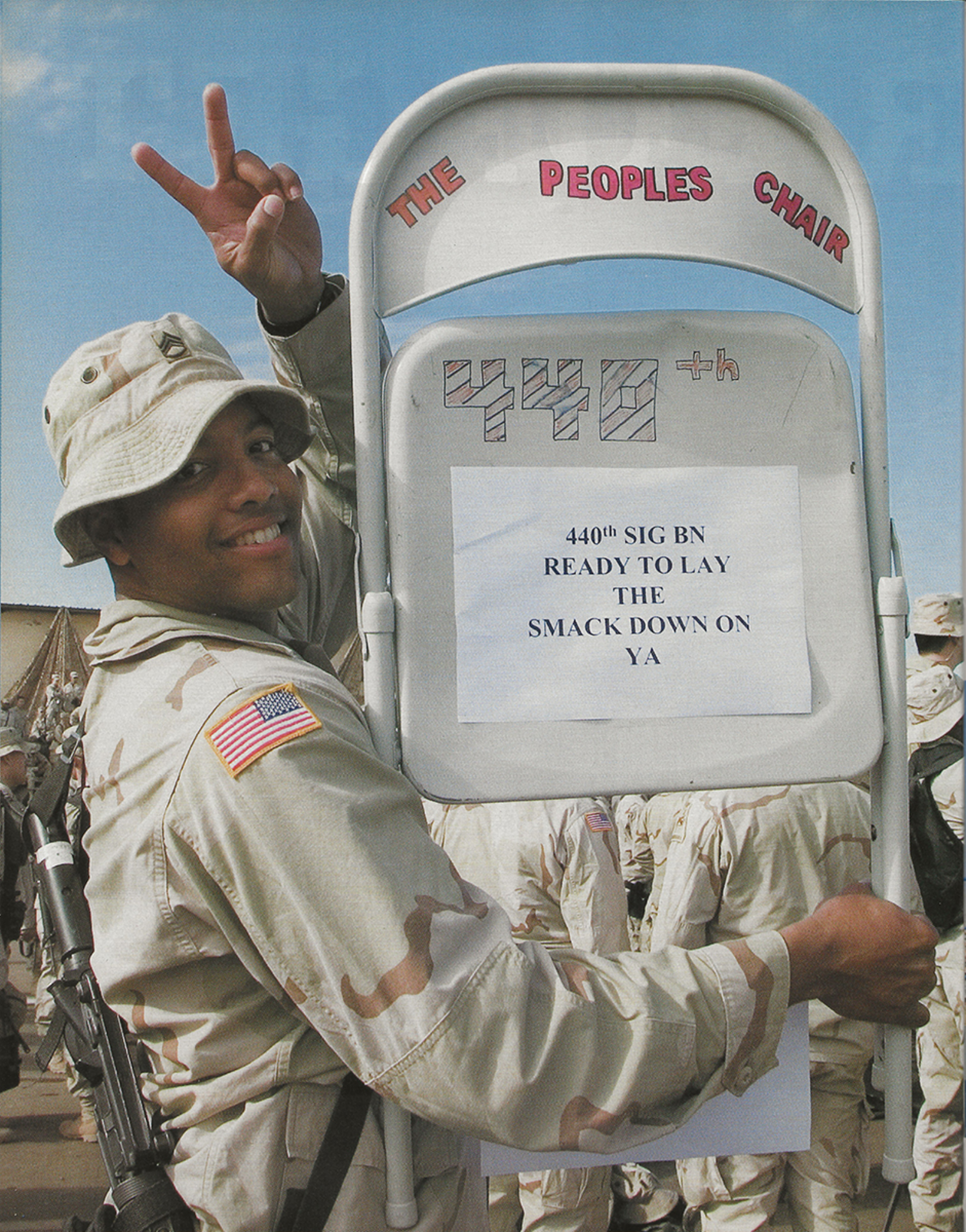


R FORGET

by Bradshaw



Sable and Dawn Marie pose with a very lucky soldier (top), while Vince McMahon hangs with the troops (bottom).



THE

PEOPLES

CHAIR



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440th SIG BN
READY TO LAY
THE
SMACK DOWN ON
YA

However, nothing I have ever done compares to walking out and performing before our troops in Baghdad. Seeing the troops sitting on their tanks with their guns in hand and the American flag waving as the Black Hawks flew by was awe-inspiring.

Knowing that these guys were there defending America made our entire crew feel that this was WWE's finest hour. It was a day we dedicated everything to those who have dedicated their lives to our freedom. It made you feel guilty to realize how much they do for our freedom and how easy it is to take it for granted. It made you feel horribly unworthy to be in their presence.

These guys live in abnormal conditions so that we can live where we want. These guys are stuck sometimes in the not-so-glamorous job of holding down a post so that we can move about in freedom. They live away from their families so that we can live with ours in safety. What an incredible debt we owe those that serve in the military. Believe me, it's a debt we can't repay, although we should try.

This is why we went to Iraq—to say thank you. One of the great pleasures I have in life is working for a company so great that it would want to take



Christmas and spend it with the troops. What a great company. WWE and Vince McMahon are proud to say that we love America.

I love the fact that we have critics, yet you don't see our critics visiting our troops. Instead, like most critics, they are gutless little hermits hiding behind their little desks never making a difference in their lives—or anyone else's life, either.

Our critics are like the very few Americans that spoke out against our war effort. They are a minority and

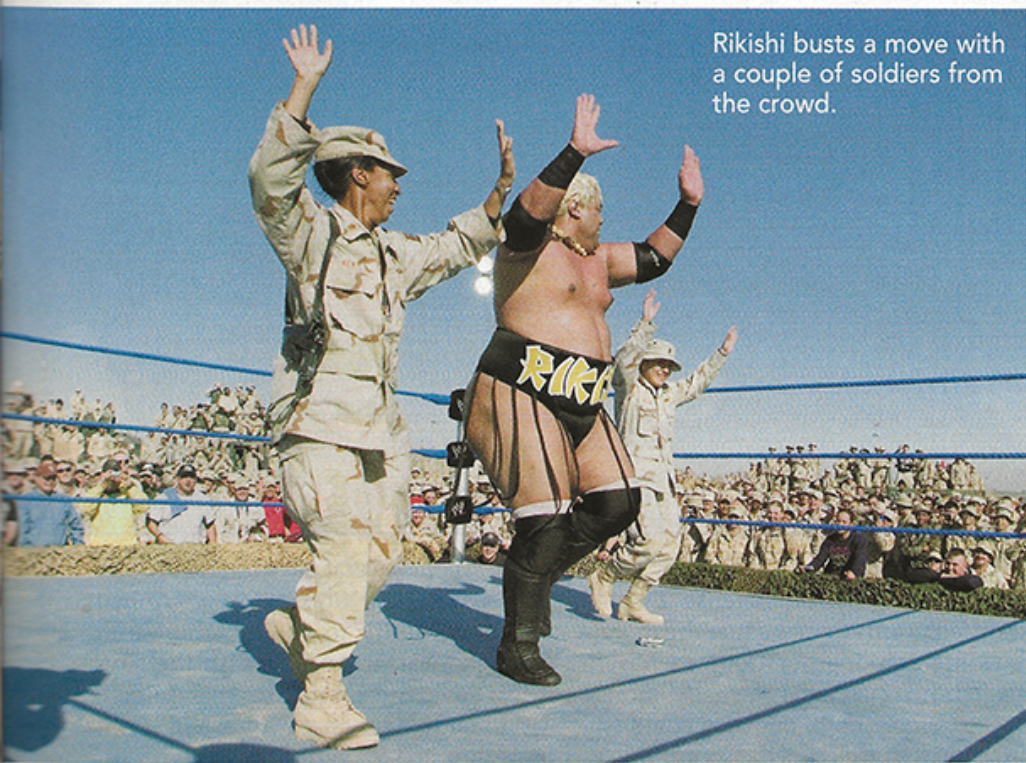


extremely misguided. If you believe that your right to free speech allows you to bash those very people that give you that free speech, then let us say that our right to free speech allows us to tell you to kiss our ass.

Our message to our troops was simple. Guys like Mel Gibson and Sylvester Stallone don't play WWE Superstars in movies, they play soldiers. They are the true modern-day heroes, as well they should be. There hasn't been a major terror attack on America since 9/11, because our guys are kicking the bad guys' asses all over the globe.

Some say it's because of our superior technology—it's not. You could give them sticks and give our guys rocks—you could even give them our technology and we could take theirs, and we would still win. We are winning because of the American soldier, not because of technology. There is a reason we have the only military in the history of the world that remains undefeated, and it's those that serve. They are just that good.

There are those that disagree. Bill Maher said that we were the cowards because they were willing to die for their



Rikishi busts a move with a couple of soldiers from the crowd.



cause and we sat in a gulf and bombed them. Yeah, right Bill. They killed kids in day care in the World Trade Center—real tough men. Meanwhile, we declared war on them and flat-out kicked their asses, while they surrendered *en masse*. They may be willing to die, but they sure ain't willing to fight.

I have been to about 60 countries. I have seen a lot, but this trip was by far the best I have ever taken. The only problem I had the whole trip was not the mortar fire and firefights I got to listen to as I was trying to sleep in the Sunni Triangle, but the lack of cold beer.

You see, all the places I visited on this trip were Muslim countries—Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. They don't serve alcohol or pork. Now, I couldn't care less about the pig, but the lack of cold beer sucked. So I decided to rename the countries one aggregate name of Rehabistan, because I felt like I



was in the Betty Ford Clinic.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld wants to make sure the morale stays high among our troops. I have a suggestion: open a bar. Actually, morale was extremely high, but they could still use a bar. Oh well, maybe soon.

We spent several days in and around Iraq visiting our troops. My group had the opportunity to go into the Sunni Triangle near Aramida to visit the guys who serve there under a true soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Amacher. CSM Amacher made you proud to be an



The WWE Superstars mixed and mingled with the troops, learning a little about their everyday life on the front lines while delivering a big dose of American cheer.



American, as did the Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack Tilley, of whom I was a guest in the Middle East and whom I also accompanied to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan after Iraq.

CSM Amacher explained to me that just a few months ago, there were 25 to 30 attacks a day at Camp Junction City, and now it is down to 5 to 10. One attack on an American is too much, but at least we know we are winning the war. Sometimes, the media doesn't do a great job of telling the real story of how well our Armed Forces are doing.

We need a stable government in an unstable Middle East, and we are getting one. Iraq is a very rich country, but the citizens weren't allowed to enjoy their wealth because a brutal dictator wanted it all for himself.

We got to hear mortar fire at night, and an occasional firefight. There is nothing like hearing a firefight at night, except maybe already knowing the outcome because we were guarded by our great troops. We were in active combat zones the whole time, where Kevlar hats and vests were mandatory. I think Big Show needed a Kevlar water bucket for his big head.

The Army put us up in Saddam's main palace in Baghdad, which had to be a bit ironic—a bunch of rednecks staying in his palace. What a coward



he is. He wanted everyone to die for him, but he surrendered and begged for mercy like a dog. One of the great T-shirts the soldiers had read, "Who's your Baghdaddy?" Well, I can tell you this: it ain't Saddam anymore. The atrocities he committed were unbelievable. They should turn his sorry ass over to the Iraqis in the middle of Baghdad.

I actually saw one place that had curtains and lots of frilly things. I knew it had to be one of two things: either that

was the ladies' quarters, or the French had finally arrived. Okay, I had to throw in one French joke.

We at WWE believe in America and the men and women that are fighting and dying to keep us free. Thanks again to all you guys out there defending us. Come home safe and reap the rewards you are providing us. After all, you earned it.

God bless you all, and God bless America. ■



Hulk Hogan & Mr. T defeat "Rowdy" Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff, with guest referee **Muhammad Ali**.

1985

93,173 fans fill the **Pontiac Silverdome** to see **Andre the Giant** in the main event for the WWE Championship.

1987

Hulk Hogan defeats "Macho Man" Randy Savage for the WWE Championship.

1989

Undertaker makes his *WrestleMania* debut with a victory over the legendary Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka.

1991

Billed as "**the world's largest toga party**," this was the *WrestleMania* to be held on

1993

TWENTY MONUMENTAL YEARS.

1986

WWE Superstars collide with top **NFL players** in an all-out battle royal.

1988

"Macho Man" Randy Savage emerges victorious in the WWE Championship tournament.

1990

A record-setting crowd packs **Toronto's SkyDome** in WWE's first International pay-per-view.

1992

The legendary **Ric Flair** defends the WWE Championship in his first *WrestleMania* ever.

1994

Razor battle for the



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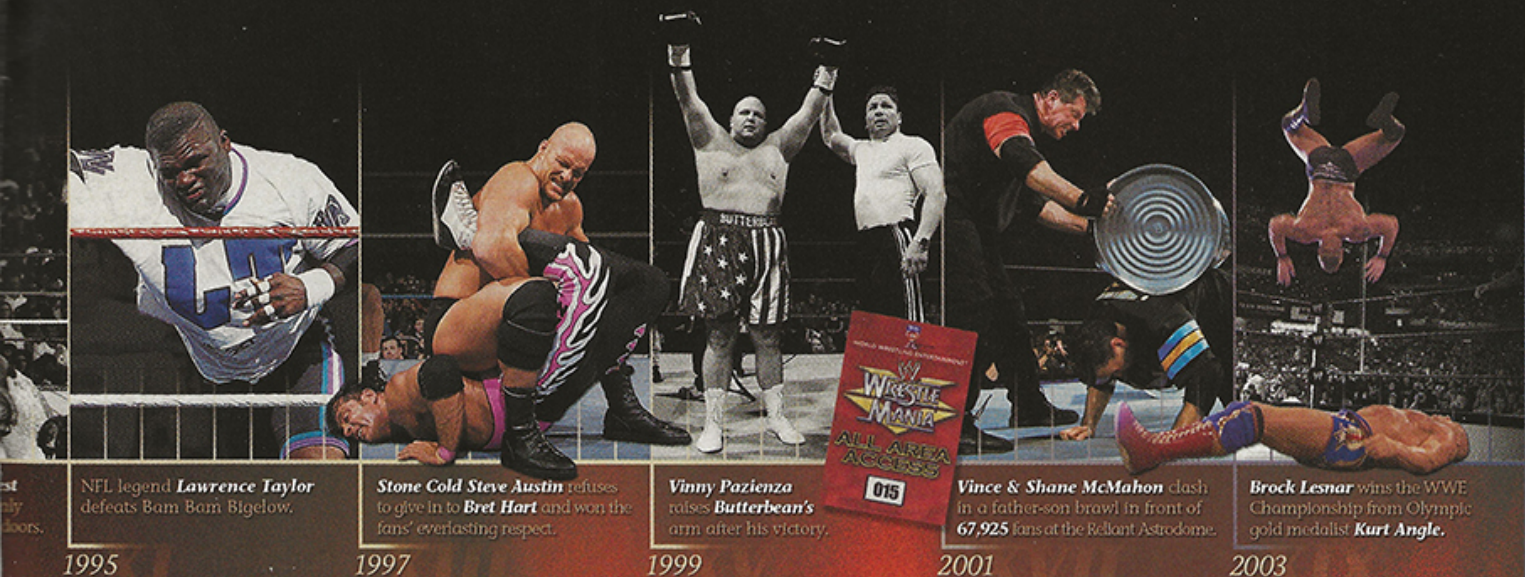
WRESTLEMANIA® XX

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1995 NFL legend **Lawrence Taylor** defeats Bam Bam Bigelow.

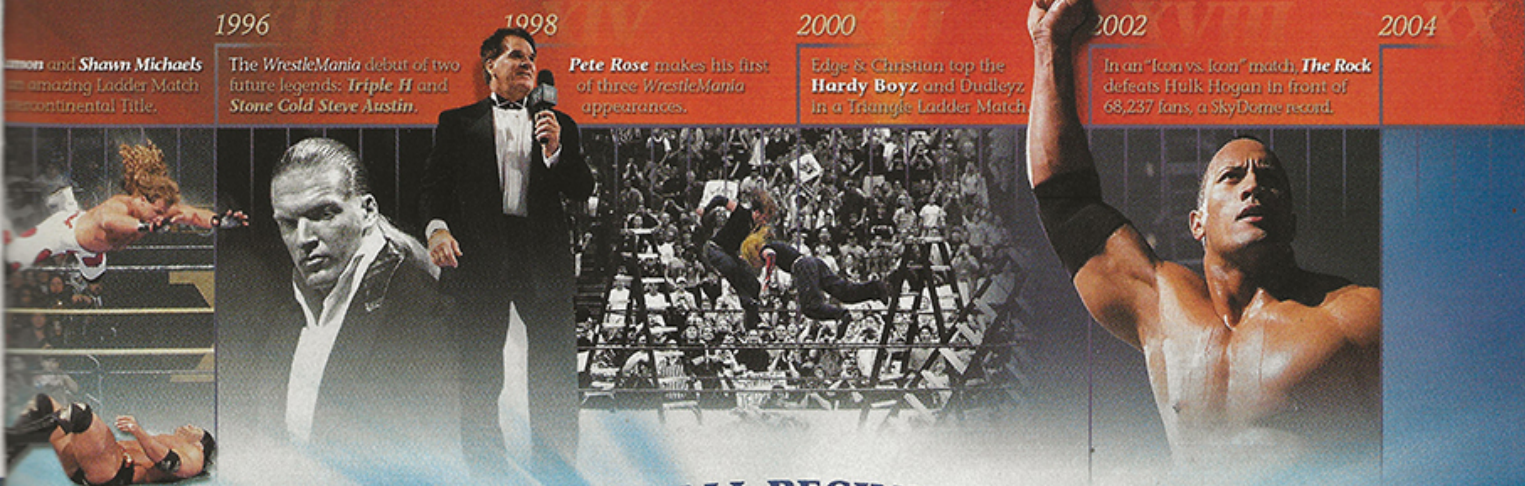
1997 **Stone Cold Steve Austin** refuses to give in to **Bret Hart** and won the fans' everlasting respect.

1999 **Vinny Pazienza** raises **Butterbean's** arm after his victory.

2001 **Vince & Shane McMahon** clash in a father-son brawl in front of 67,925 fans at the Reliant Astrodome.

2003 **Brock Lesnar** wins the WWE Championship from Olympic gold medalist **Kurt Angle**.

ONE LEGENDARY NIGHT.



1996

Triple H and **Shawn Michaels** in an amazing Ladder Match for the Intercontinental Title.

1998

The **WrestleMania** debut of two future legends: **Triple H** and **Stone Cold Steve Austin**.

2000

Pete Rose makes his first of three **WrestleMania** appearances.

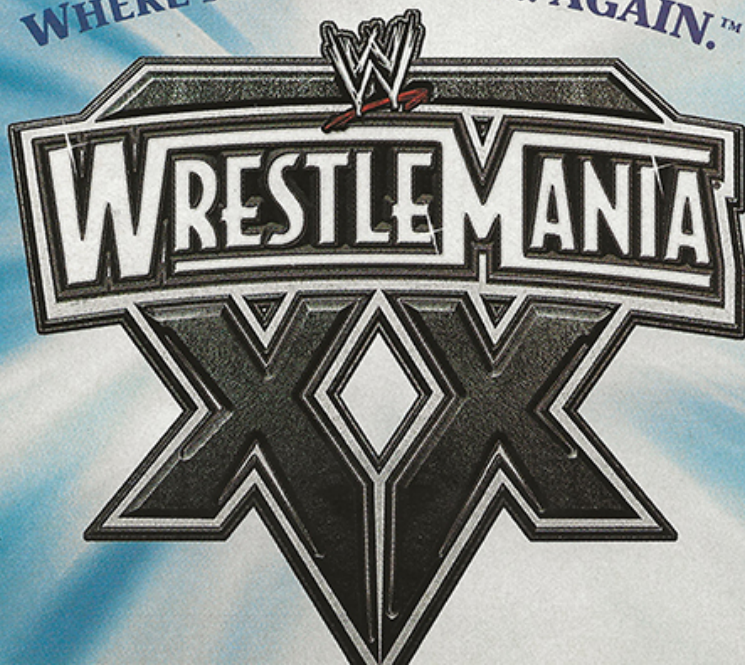
2002

Edge & Christian top the **Hardy Boyz** and **Dudleyz** in a Triangle Ladder Match.

2004

In an "Icon vs. Icon" match, **The Rock** defeats **Hulk Hogan** in front of 68,237 fans, a **SkyDome** record.

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS... AGAIN.™





Photos by Rich Freeda

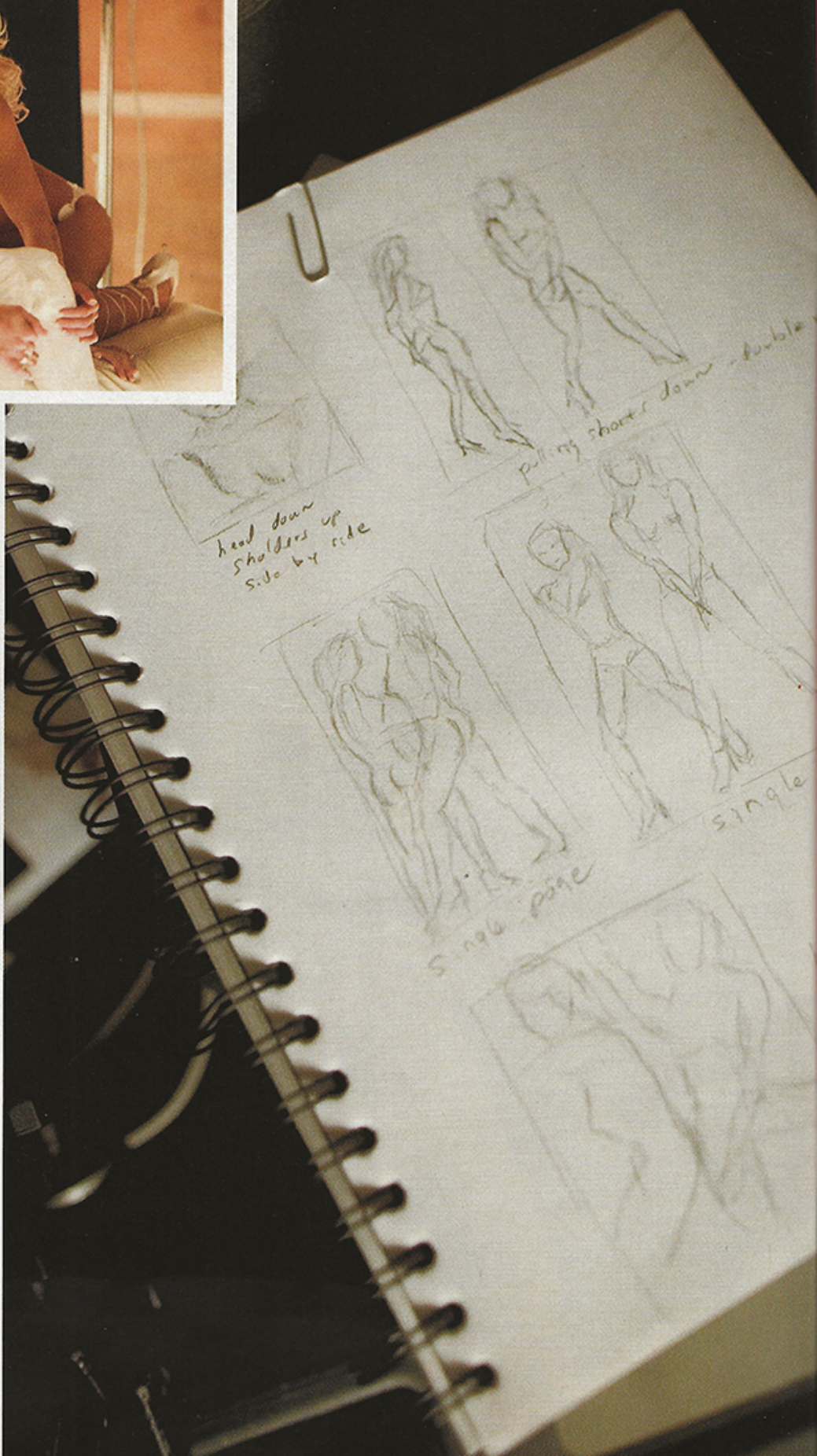


DOUBLE TROUBLE

A PEEK BEHIND
THE SCENES
AT THE
TORRIE/SABLE
PLAYBOY SHOOT



This past December, Torrie Wilson and Sable teamed up to pose for *Playboy*. Shot by renowned *Playboy* photographer Arny Freytag, the pictorial is sure to make the March issue an all-time bestseller. But who has the patience to wait until then? We sent our own photographer on location to grab some candid shots and give our readers an idea of what they could expect. Here, the duo poses (top) while trying to bring some conceptual sketches (at right) to life. The issue is on newsstands now, so what are you waiting for? Why are you still reading this? ■



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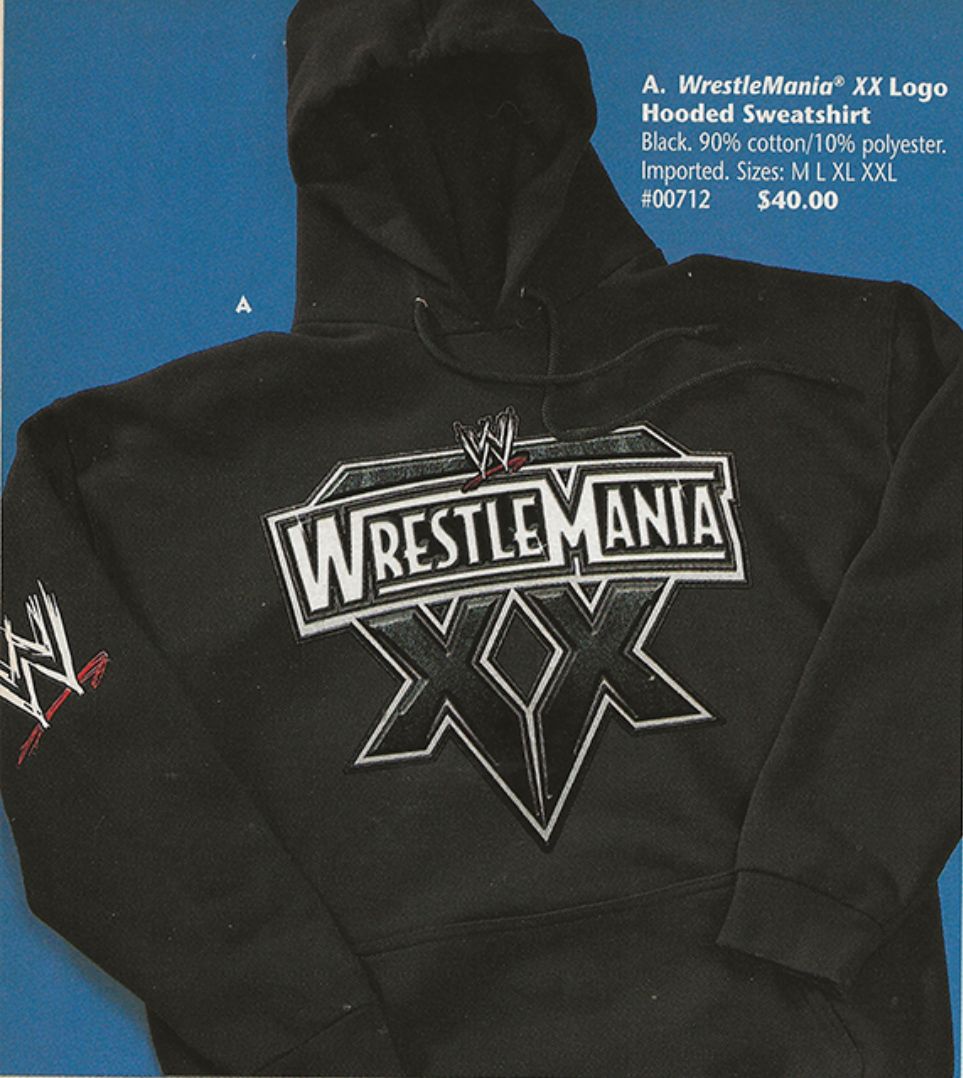
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JOHN CENA™



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A

A. WrestleMania® XX Logo Hooded Sweatshirt

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B

B. WrestleMania™ XX Logo Face Watch

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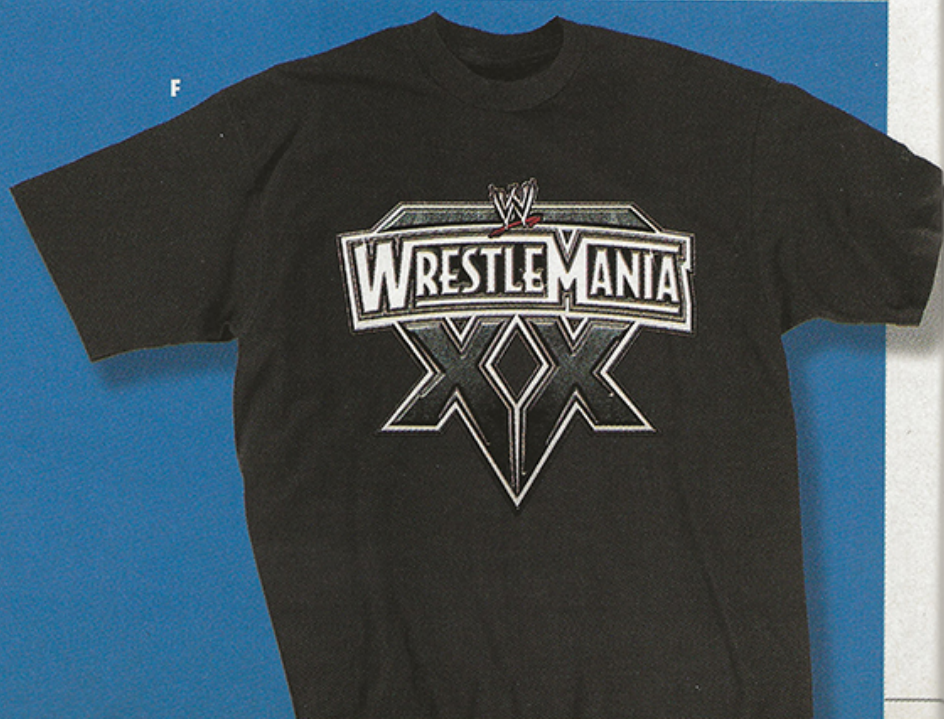
Black. 100% cotton. Imported.
Sizes: M L XL XXL XXXL
#00691 \$25.00



E

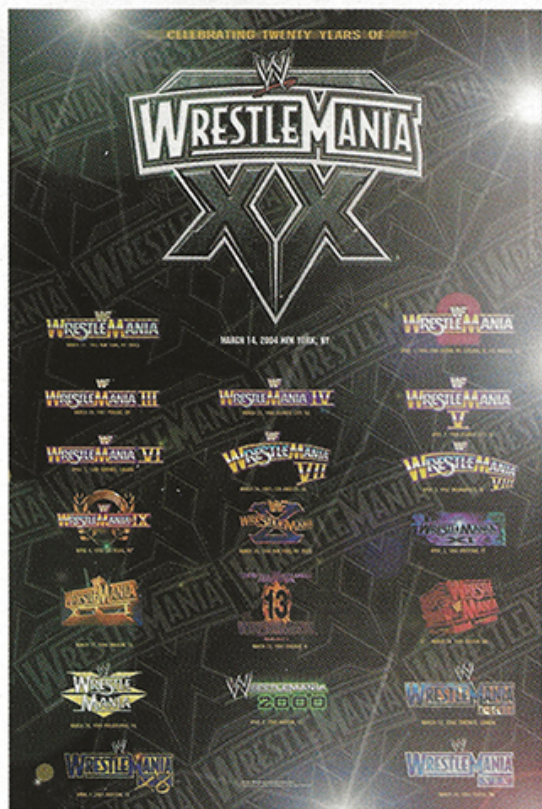
E. WrestleMania® XX Baseball Cap

Embroidered logo on front. Date and venue embroidered on back. 100% brushed heavy-weight cotton. Imported.
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F

THE CELEBRATION YOU CAN'T MISS



C. **WrestleMania® XX Commemorative Poster**

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H. **WrestleMania™ XX Lanyard**

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Black. 100% acrylic. Imported.
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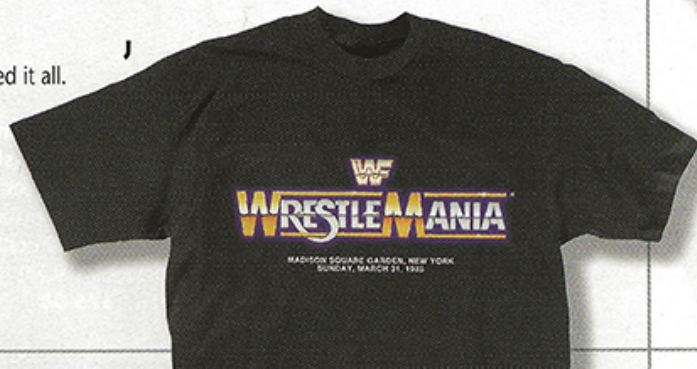


I. **WrestleMania™ XX Key Chain**

Steel. 1 7/8" x 2 1/4". With key ring and claw clip.
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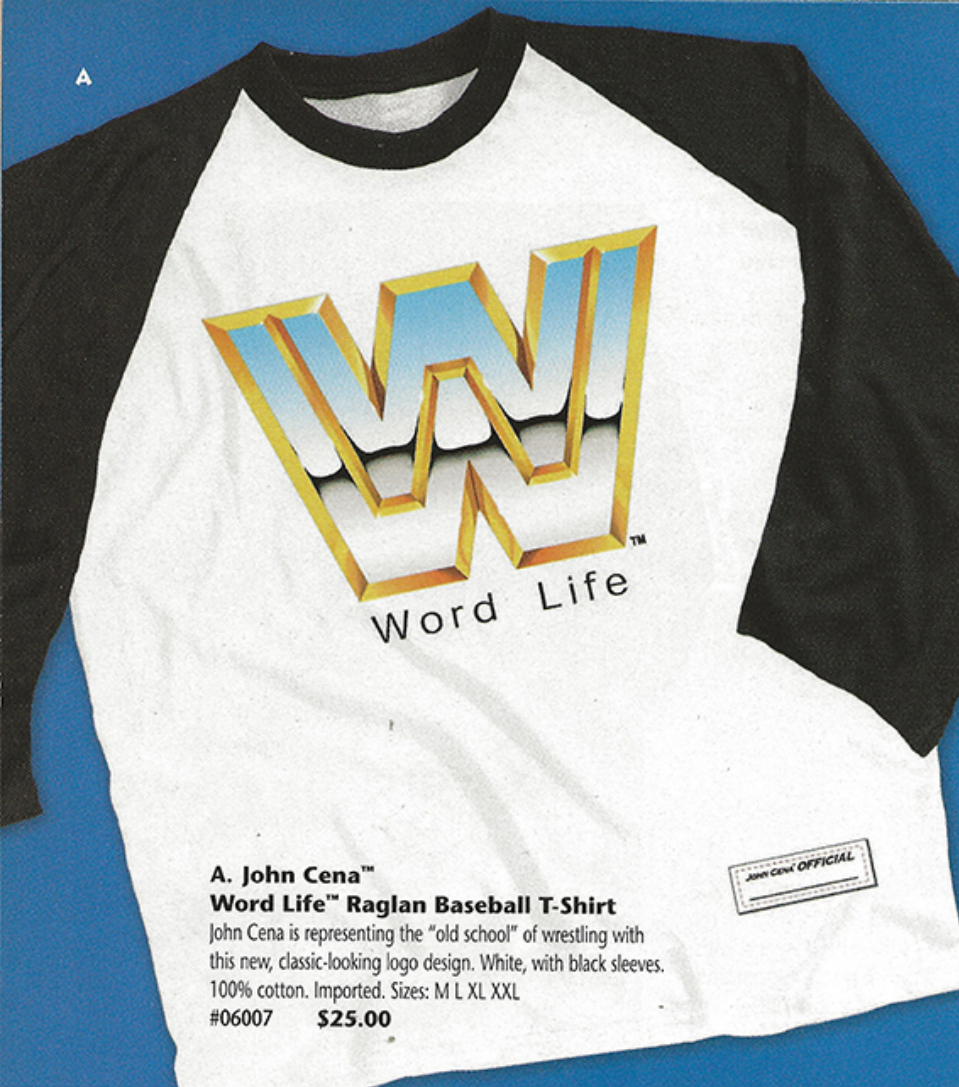
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John Cena is representing the "old school" of wrestling with this new, classic-looking logo design. White, with black sleeves. 100% cotton. Imported. Sizes: M L XL XXL

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Sporting all of the gear of John Cena, from the boots to the headband. You had better represent and get this bear! 17" tall. 100% polyester, 100% cotton, and 100% nylon. Imported.

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C. John Cena™ Trucker Style Baseball Cap

Screen-printed logo on front. Mesh/foam. Snap closure. Imported.

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F. Undertaker® Big Evil Skull Cap

Black. 100% acrylic. Imported.

Sizes: M L XL XXL

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G. NEW! Brock Lesnar™

"Off The Hook" T-shirt

Brock Lesnar is "Off The Hook," and you can be, too, when you get his new shirt! Black. 100% cotton. Imported. Sizes: M L XL XXL

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A Numbers Racket SmackDown!

London, Ontario, Canada
February 27, 2003

While he's known more for his gang tactics than his in-ring encounters, Nunzio is one of the most refined and well-respected competitors in WWE. His technical prowess is on par with the best athletes the industry has ever seen, and even though he mainly competes in the Cruiserweight division, Nunzio's heart and determination are of heavyweight caliber.

Between his run in ECW and his year-plus in WWE, he has competed in hundreds of matches, making it difficult to choose just one as an absolute favorite.

"It's hard just to pick one match when you've had so many different matches," Nunzio says. "I used to have some great ones back in ECW with Tajiri and Super Crazy. We had a bunch of three-way dances, and I specifically remember this one match we had at a TV taping in Buffalo, N.Y. It had a crazy finish where I was underneath two tables and Tajiri jumped off the top rope, through both tables, and onto me. It was pretty interesting, to say the least, but it would have actually been a great match even without that, because we just had a great chemistry."

"I had some memorable matches with Rob Van Dam in ECW, too," Nunzio adds, "but I don't know if I can come up with just one favorite match. Probably one of my best matches here [in WWE] would have to be the one I had with Eddie Guerrero back in February of last year."

Right off the bat, the die-hard Canadian fans took sides, some rooting for the Full Blooded Italian, but the majority feverishly cheering for Latino Heat.

"I just liked the match," Nunzio says, "and I think that a lot of it had



to do with the way the crowd reacted to what we were doing. I think that we used good psychology, and that overall the match really worked."

Besides the tremendous fan reaction, Nunzio and Eddie were quite equally matched. Once the two locked up, they began testing each other's abilities by using devastating backbreakers, multiple suplexes and high-risk maneuvers. But it was the fans at ringside cheering on their respective favorites that became the most important element in the contest. Nunzio's *paisans*, Chuck Palumbo and Johnny "the Bull" Stamboli, and Eddie's nephew, Chavo, turned what was originally supposed to be a one-on-one encounter into more of a gang fight.

The FBI may have outnumbered

the Guerreros three-to-two, but they couldn't stop Eddie from "cheating to win." As Nunzio attempted to roll Guerrero up for the pinfall, Eddie reversed the hold and grabbed a handful of tights to steal the victory. But before Eddie could celebrate, he and Chavo were brutally attacked by the FBI.

"He may have won the battle, but we won the war," Nunzio says. "And we would have finished the job had it not been for Rikishi running down [to ringside] to assist them."

Despite the tough loss, Nunzio has no regrets.

"I will say, I always did like Eddie Guerrero," he says. "I watched him for a long time, when he was in Mexico, ECW and WCW, and I always wanted to compete against him, so

that just made it a real good match. But looking back on it, there were a few things I would have liked to have done differently."

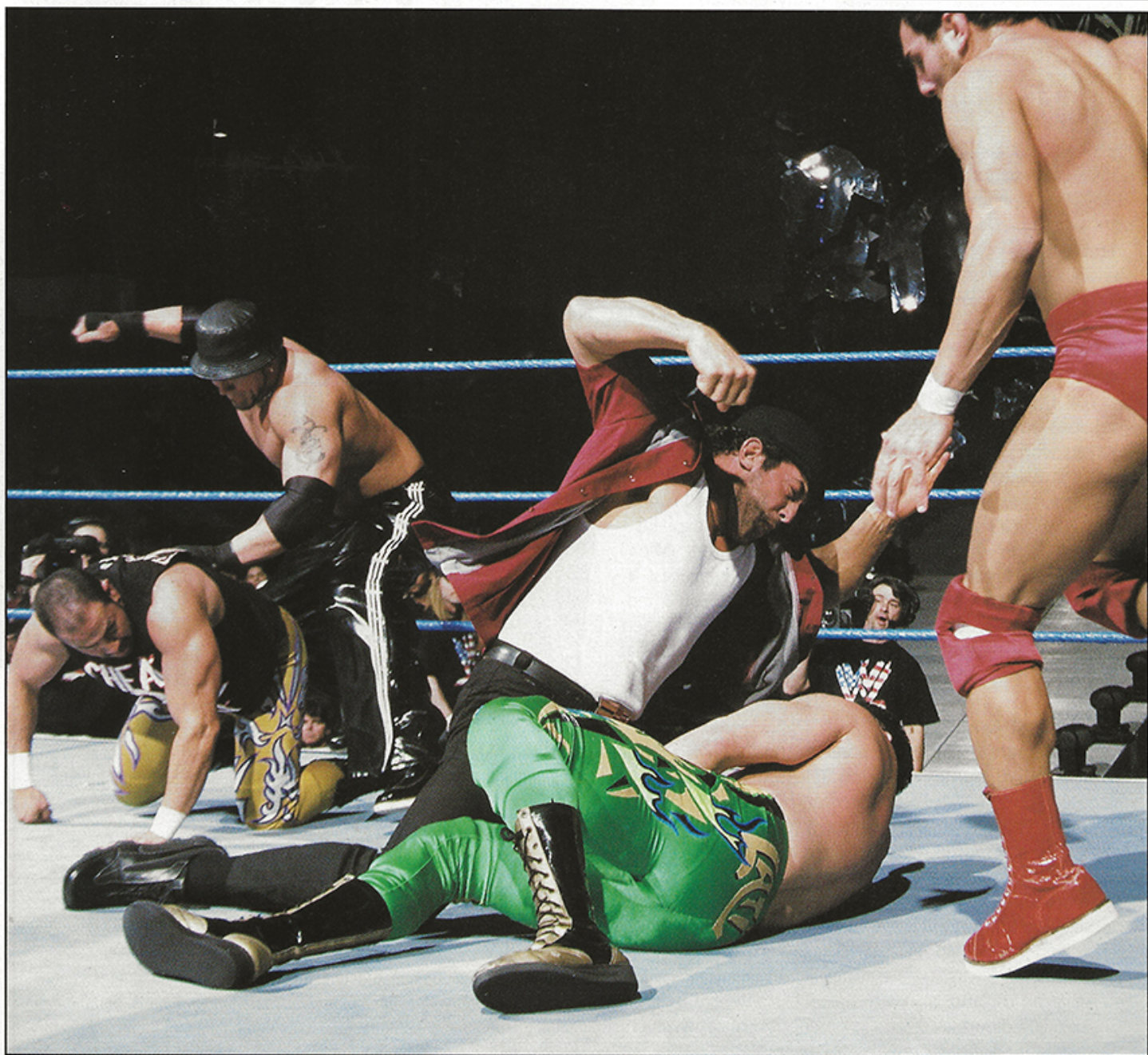
When he's not re-watching the *Godfather* trilogy, Nunzio replays all of his matches for quality assurance purposes.

"I've watched my match against Eddie a couple of times and there are definitely things that I will need

to change if I wrestle him again," Nunzio says. "I always critique my matches, and I don't just watch them once. I've gotta watch them at least a few times to see the different things that I may not have noticed the first time around. Usually if I watch them enough times, I'll find something that I wished I could have done better, and I'll make the necessary adjustments."

Since he fell prey to Eddie's underhanded tactics, Nunzio has taken the necessary steps to ensure that the occurrence never happens again, and he believes that by doing his homework, he'll be better suited for victory the next time around.

"If and when I get Eddie in the ring again," says Nunzio, with a look of determination, "there will be a much different outcome." ■



Reliving *Raw* vs. *Nitro*

By Anthony Cali

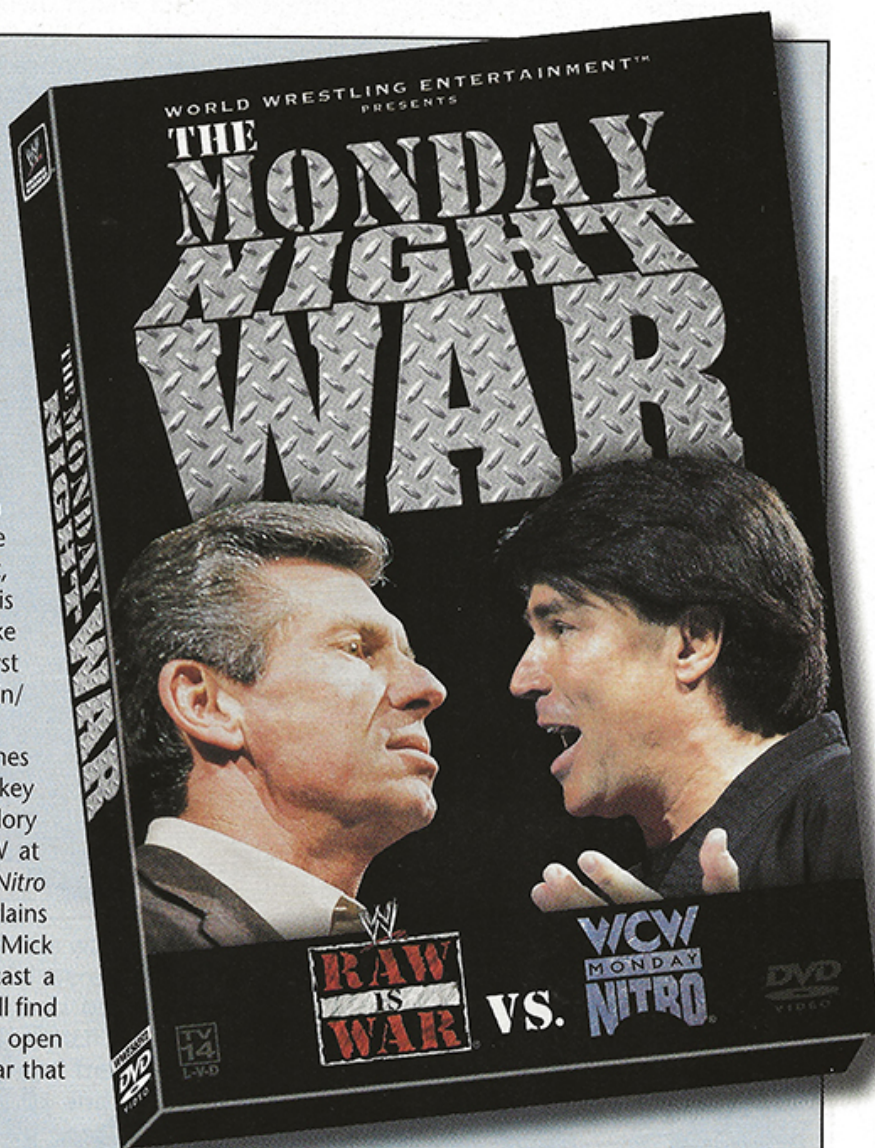
There have been few, if any, good wars in modern civilization. Usually fought over territory or freedom, most wars result in countless casualties and aftershocks that crumble societies. Yet, there was one war that only had positive effects on society and actually changed many people's lives for the better. This battle, known simply as the "Monday Night War," lasted nearly six years, and saw WWE and WCW go head-to-head with their respective flagship programs, *Raw* and *Monday Nitro*.

Now you can relive every moment that made this rivalry so extraordinary with a limited-edition DVD, *The Monday Night War*, that will take you from the very first *Nitro*, featuring Lex Luger's surprise return to WCW, to the historic *Raw/Nitro* simulcast, as well as all the major moments in between. This DVD features all of those unforgettable moments, like the nWo formation, the DX invasion, Goldberg's first WCW Championship and the Stone Cold Steve Austin/Mike Tyson encounter.

For the first time, you'll hear behind-the-scenes opinions and candid interviews from some of the key players who worked for *Raw* and *Nitro* during this glory era. Eric Bischoff, executive vice president of WCW at the time, reveals many of the schemes that helped *Nitro* beat *Raw* for 83 straight weeks. Vince McMahon explains how close he was to being run out of business. Mick Foley sheds light on the controversy that nearly cast a dark shadow on the greatest night of his career. You'll find out the inside scoop on all the tactics, talent raids, open challenges and other debauchery involved in the war that changed the face of sports-entertainment forever.

And Still Available:

To celebrate the historic career of the original Hardcore Legend, WWE Home Video has released over six hours of intense action in *Mick Foley's Greatest Hits and Misses: A Life in Wrestling*. This two-disc set is a must for any sports-entertainment fanatic, as it follows Foley's career through ECW, Smoky Mountain Wrestling, WCW, and, of course, WWE. You'll see all the matches that made Foley a household name, including his battles with Stone Cold Steve Austin, Triple H, Terry Funk, The Rock, Undertaker, Vader, Shawn Michaels, the Sandman, Sabu and more. And, with extra features like the birth of Mr. Socko, classic promos, and Mick's hilarious vignettes with Al Snow, this special-edition DVD should be enough to satisfy even the most deranged, hardcore Foley follower. ■



Available Now

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT™ HOME VIDEO PRESENTS

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Stone Cold Steve Austin tells his own story, in his own words, in his own unique style. Travel all the way to England to hear from Texas Rattlesnake's two daughters on Stone Cold, the dad. Journey with the Rattlesnake back to his hometown of Edna, Texas. For the first time, this notoriously private man opens his world to you. Plus his Mom, Dad, brothers and sister discuss just how a young, polite and shy Steve Williams transformed into Stone Cold Steve Austin.

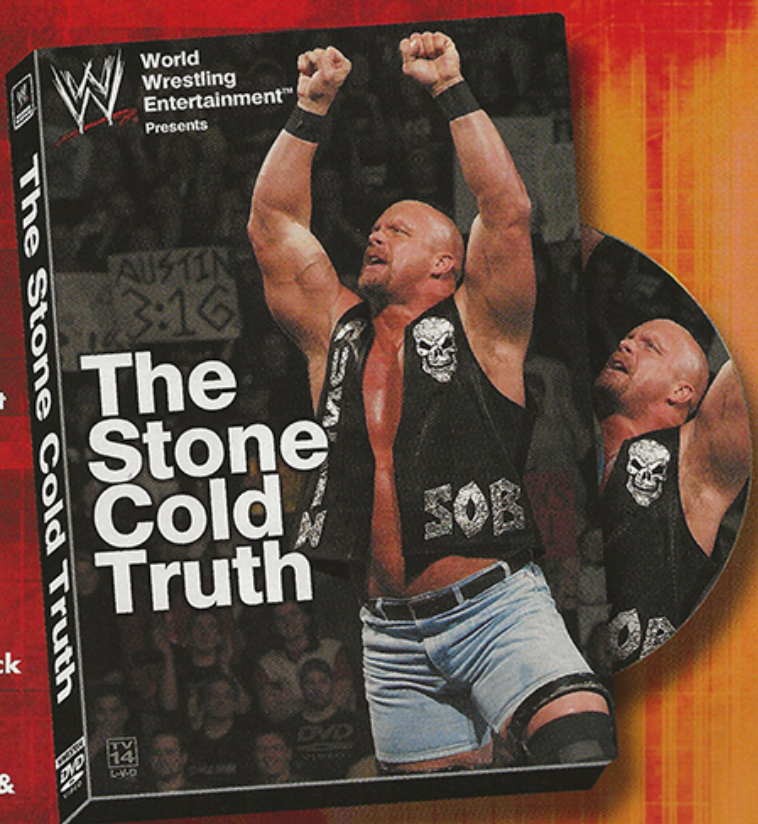
Get candid comments on just how the Texas Redneck felt about Owen Hart before and after taking the piledriver that nearly left The Rattlesnake paralyzed, and ended it all, before the Stone Cold phenomenon even took off.

DVD EXTRAS INCLUDE:

WCW Tag Team Championship Match
Hollywood Blondes vs. Arn Anderson & Ric Flair

ECW: The Promos, plus Steve Austin vs. Mikey Whipwreck
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WWE: Debut match as The Ringmaster.
Plus post-show "off-the-air" footage, family interviews & stories, plus much more.



Now it can be told.

In 1995, two wrestling companies squared off on Monday night television to compete head to head in an unprecedented confrontation.

On one side, Vince McMahon, the promoter who created WWE and made the industry what it is today. On the other, WCW, owned by media giant Ted Turner, and run by an ambitious man named Eric Bischoff.

With interviews and insights from Vince McMahon, Eric Bischoff and Superstars from both sides. They lay it all on the table and talk candidly about what was at stake.

This is the whole story, told by those who created it, lived it, and survived it. This is *The Monday Night War*.

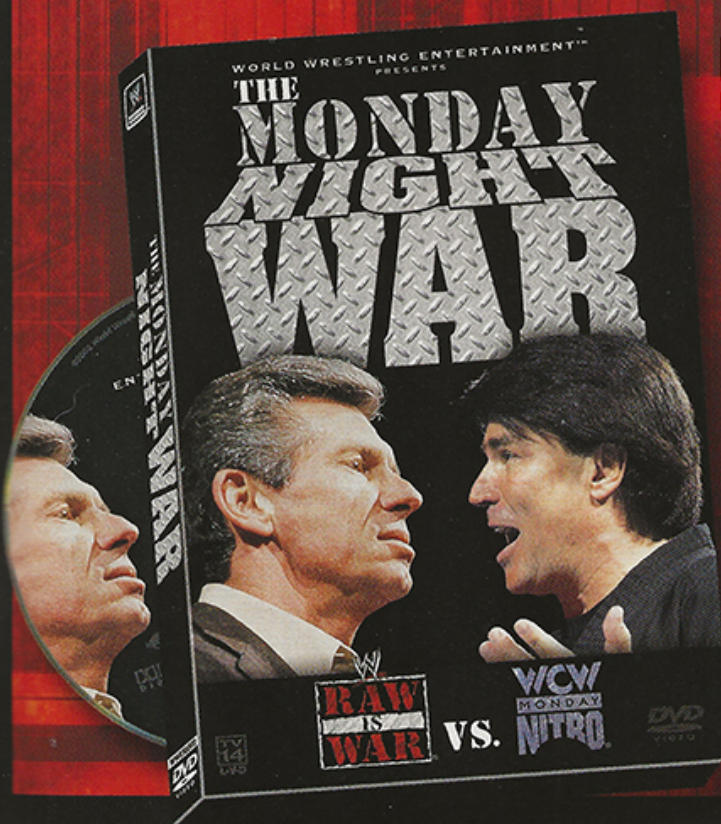
DVD EXTRAS: 86 minutes of the matches and events that changed the face of sports-entertainment.

Two matches from **RAW**:

- Stone Cold Steve Austin & Shawn Michaels vs. British Bulldog and Owen Hart
- Shawn Michaels & Triple H vs. The Legion of Doom

Two matches from **NITRO**:

- Chris Benoit vs. Booker T • Goldberg vs. Hulk Hogan



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It's A Wonderful Life

Through Twists and Turns, His Career Still Resonates

More than 15 years have passed since Paul Orndorff last stepped into a WWE ring, but his name comes up nearly as much today as when he competed. Orndorff's impact on sports-entertainment is still felt.

The man known to fans around the globe as "Mr. Wonderful" was a football standout at Brandon High School in Tampa, Florida, and was offered scholarships from dozens of colleges. He accepted an offer from the nearby University of Tampa and played full-back for the Spartans alongside future NFL star John Matuszak.

In 1973, the New Orleans Saints drafted Orndorff in the 12th round, but he never played for them, and instead signed with the Jacksonville Sharks of the World Football League. But soon after, Orndorff decided to leave football and pursue a career in sports-entertainment.

He trained under Hiro Matsuda—the Japanese legend who also taught Hulk Hogan. Soon thereafter, he traveled throughout the National Wrestling Alliance's circuit and headlined its biggest territories, including Mid-South, Mid-Atlantic and Georgia.

Throughout much of the late '70s and early '80s, Orndorff battled competitors like Ernie Ladd, Ted DiBiase, Ivan Koloff and Jake Roberts, among others. On several occasions, he even challenged then-NWA World Champion Ric Flair, but could never wrestle the prize away from the "Nature Boy."

During his NWA tenure, Orndorff captured several titles, including

the Mid-South North American Championship and the NWA National title. In December 1978, he teamed with Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka to topple Greg "the Hammer" Valentine & Baron Von Raschke for the NWA World Tag Team titles.

In 1983, Paul took a chance and signed with WWE, and he quickly became a serious contender for the WWE Championship. On December



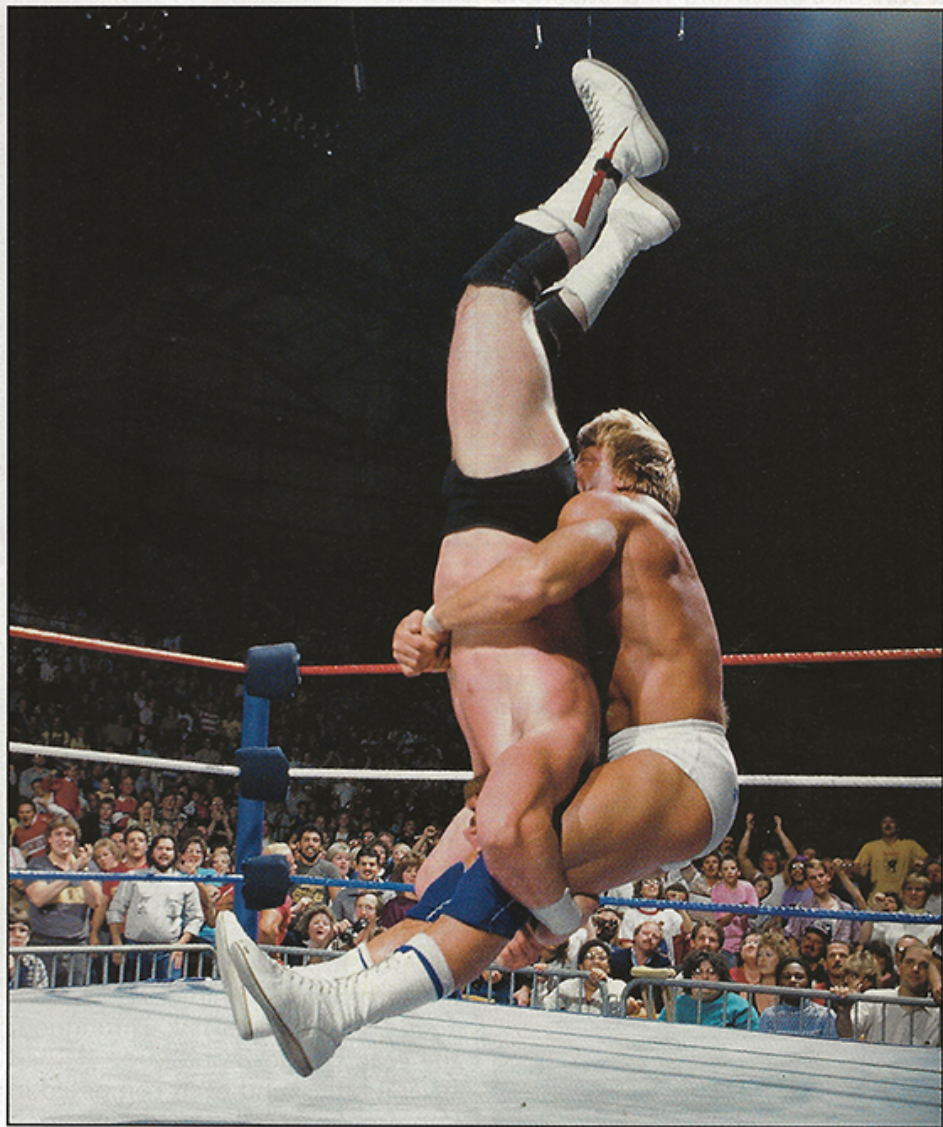
26, 1983 at Madison Square Garden, on the same card that Hulk Hogan's defeated the Iron Sheik for the WWE title, Orndorff made an equally powerful impression. Orndorff used his trademark piledriver to beat respected veteran Salvatore Bellomo. His victory so impressed officials that he was granted a title shot the next month, one of Hogan's first defenses of his newly won crown.

Strutting to the ring in custom-made robes that read "Mr. Wonderful" across the back in sequins, Orndorff carried himself as if the only reason fans attended WWE shows was to see his magnificent physique. Naturally, this egotistical attitude didn't win him very much love or adoration from the masses.

But it was the pack of villains Orndorff ran with who helped solidify him as one of WWE's most reviled Superstars. Alongside "Dr. D" David Shultz, "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr. and "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, Orndorff's crew better resembled a street gang than a group of professional athletes. They committed abominable acts against many of the fans' favorite Superstars. At one point, they made life so miserable for the young David Sammartino that his retired father, the legendary Bruno Sammartino, had to come out of retirement to help quell his tormentors.

In the main event of the first *WrestleMania*, Orndorff & Piper battled the team of Hogan & Mr. T. Everything was going well for the dastardly duo until Orton, who was stationed at ringside, accidentally blasted Orndorff with his cast and cost his cronies the victory. After the bell rang, Orndorff's teammates turned their backs on him and left him lying in the ring. A few weeks later, Piper and Orton showered him with blame for the *WrestleMania* loss, which led to a brutal attack on the set of *Piper's Pit*.

From that point on, Mr. Wonderful seemed like a changed man. He showed sportsmanship and even



Paul Orndorff's patented piledriver was one of the most devastating maneuvers in wrestling history. "Mr. Wonderful" used the move to finish off many a WWE foe during the 1980s, an era where Orndorff was a perennial title contender.

teamed with old foes like Hogan, Andre the Giant and Bruno Sammartino to battle his former associates. At one point, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan offered \$50,000 to anyone who could put Orndorff out of action. From Big John Studd to Don Muraco, every greedy grappler tried to collect on the bounty, but they all failed. After much hard work, Orndorff had finally won the respect and trust of the WWE fans.

He appeared on an episode of

Adrian Adonis' *Flower Shop* and was belittled for supposedly living in the shadow of the Hulkster. Adonis urged Orndorff to prove his theory wrong, but when Orndorff publicly tried to contact the Hulkster for clarification, the WWE Champion never returned his phone calls.

Eventually, the two were paired together against Heenan's powerhouses, Studd & King Kong Bundy. During the contest, Hogan accidentally struck Orndorff in the eye with

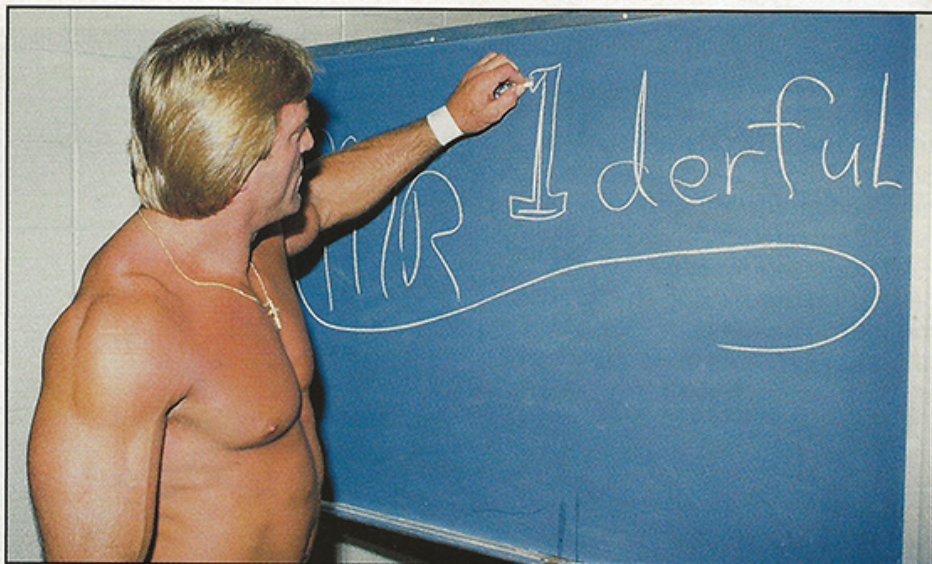
a stiff elbow, leaving him unable to help his partner fend off the two behemoths. Then, when the match finally ended, Orndorff shocked the world when he attacked Hogan and delivered two brutal piledrivers. Orndorff then mocked the fallen champion by cupping his hand to his ear and taunting the crowd. After Gorilla Monsoon witnessed the horrific incident, he dubbed Orndorff, "the Benedict Arnold of WWE."

The double-cross led to a series of matches between Hogan and Orndorff throughout the summer of 1986, including a memorable bout at *The Big Event*, where Orndorff celebrated a victory to become the new WWE Champion, only to have the decision overturned seconds later and ruled a disqualification.

The two met again in January 1987, in a steel cage match on *Saturday Night's Main Event*, and, as usual, there was major controversy. When both competitors escaped the cage at the same time, a debate ensued between the referees over whose feet hit the floor first. Eventually, officials ruled that the two reached the floor simultaneously, and the match was promptly restarted. Hogan rallied after the restart and escaped



Orndorff's physique was one of the most impressive in the sport, and his match fitness was second to none.



to retain his title.

Orndorff came within an eyelash of winning the title on so many occasions that he felt he needed some time off. While he was on hiatus, Heenan hired Ravishing Rick Rude to take over his spot in his stable. To send a message to the recovering Orndorff, Heenan publicly ranted about how Rude's physique was "wonderful," and Orndorff's was just "pretty good."

Upon his return, Orndorff quickly fired Heenan, and hired a new manager, Oliver Humperdink. Throughout the year, Orndorff and Rude clashed several times, and even competed in impromptu posedowns during each other's matches. Finally at the first *Survivor Series* in 1987, they were paired on opposite teams of a 10-man tag elimination match, in which Rude held Orndorff's tights to claim the victory. It was after this humiliating loss that Orndorff quietly disappeared from WWE.

Reports soon arose that Orndorff had passed away. One local newspaper even ran an obituary featuring the Superstar's name, but, despite the rumors, Orndorff was very much alive. He was running a bowling center in Atlanta while he recovered from a neck injury he thought might have ended his career.

In 1990, Orndorff came out of

"retirement" and competed in various independent promotions until he finally settled down in WCW. Ironically, Orndorff's first appearance was to take Rude's place in a "Thunderdome" cage match. While in WCW, Orndorff competed in many memorable matches with Cactus Jack, Dustin Rhodes and Ricky Steamboat. He won a 16-man tournament for WCW's TV Title in 1993, and captured three Tag Team Championships with two different partners, including a successful tandem with Paul Roma known as "Pretty Wonderful."

In the mid-1990s, Orndorff's neck injury worsened and he decided to leave the spotlight to be an instructor for WCW's Power Plant, based in Atlanta. The new vocation allowed Orndorff to give back to the business. He used his 20-plus years of experience to teach WCW hopefuls about conditioning, discipline and humility. Current Superstars such as Bill Goldberg, Chuck Palumbo, Johnny Stamboli, Mark Jindrak, Ernest Miller and Sean O'Haire, among others, all passed through the Power Plant.

Even though his wonderful career ended eight years ago, Orndorff's legacy still lives on today in each of the Superstars who were fortunate enough to learn the tricks of the trade from the legendary Mr. Wonderful. ■

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Cool Bumper Stickers

I really put forth a strong effort to do this column differently than anything else in *SmackDown! Magazine*, as well as that other WWE magazine. With that being said, I am going to prove my last point with evidence! And the evidence is that this is a column about bumper stickers! That's right, bumper stickers! Like many of you, I drive

a lot. And I often find myself looking at the back of people's cars at a stop light or in traffic. (Being a New Yorker it comes with the territory.) Basically, I see a lot of bumper stickers, and I figured I would share with you, my loyal readers, some of the greatest ones I've ever read.

So let's have at it!

10. Your kid may be an honor student, but you're still an idiot!

9. Eat right, exercise and die anyway.

6. Watch out for the idiot behind me.

5. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

2. I don't like you!

BIG DRUMROLL PLEASE!

Keep honking.



I'm re-loading.

8. There are three kinds of people: those who can count, and those that can't!

7. Honk if you want to see my finger!

4. What has four legs and one arm? A happy pit bull!

3. Jesus loves you, but everyone else thinks you're a goof!

1. Keep honking. I'm re-loading.

Tazz's Top Three Driveways and Sidewalks

1. Interlocking Brick Pavers
2. Cement
3. Blacktop

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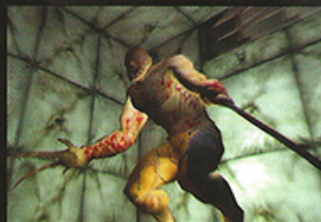


"...a gore-drenched excursion into hair-raising territory"

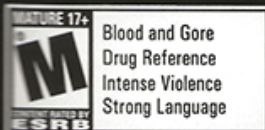
— GamePro

"Midway's action/horror title could be the most gruesome videogame ever"

— IGN.COM



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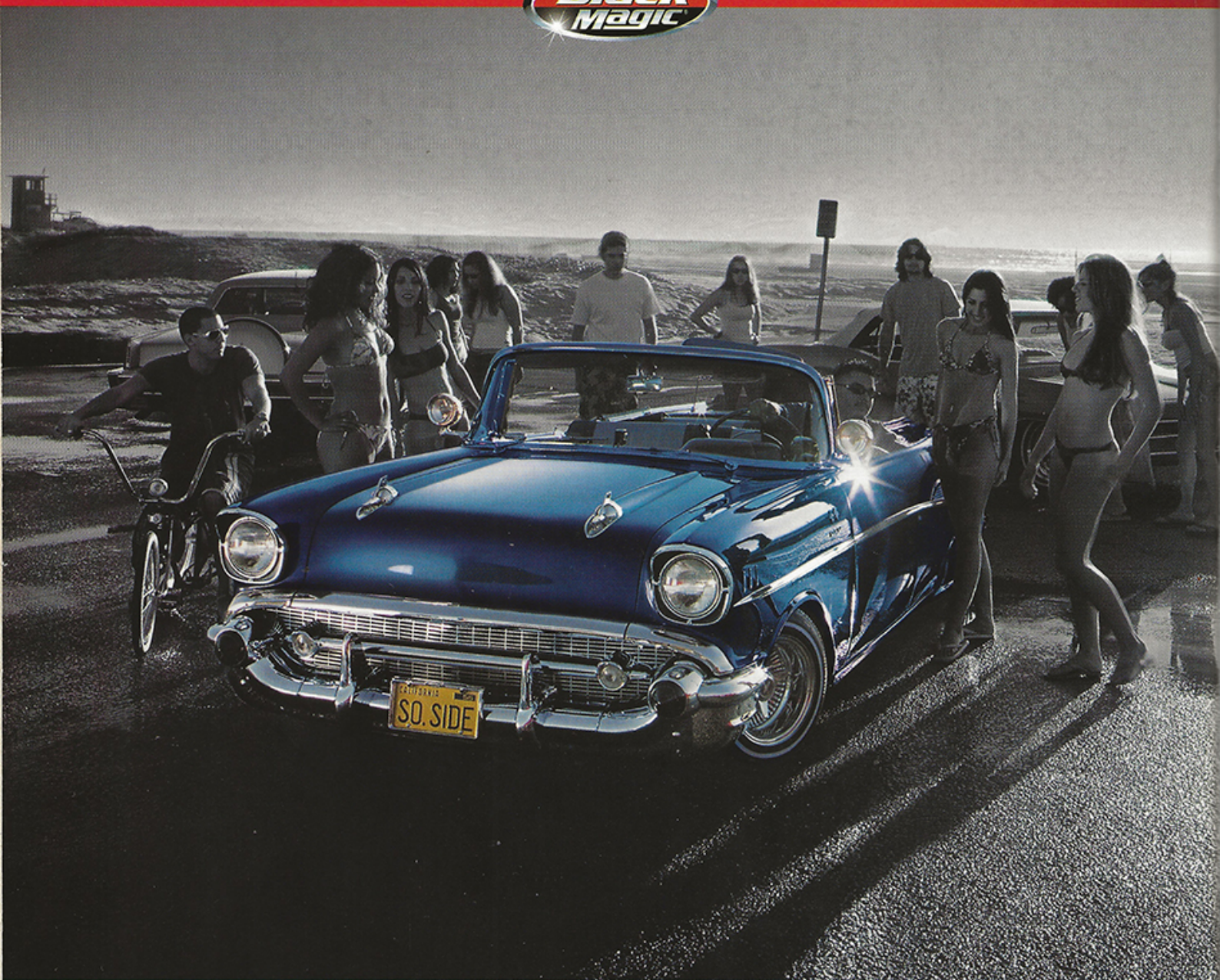


PlayStation 2



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